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# Imprimatur,

June 26.  
1688.

ROBERT MIDGLEY.

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SEVERAL  
DISCOURSES  
AND  
CHARACTERS  
ADDRESS'D TO THE  
Ladies of the Age.  
WHEREIN THE  
VANITIES  
OF THE  
**Modish Women**  
ARE DISCOVERED.

Written at the Request of a Lady, by a  
Person of Honour.

LONDON, Printed for *Christopher Wilkinson*,  
and are to be sold by *Thomas Salusbury*, at the  
Sign of the *Temple* next to the Inner Temple  
Gate in *Fleetstreet*, 1689.

DISCOVERIES

AND  
CHARACTERS

ADDRESSED TO THE  
Ladies of the Age.

WHICH  
VANITIES

OF THE  
Society of Women

ARE DISCOVERED  
Written at the Request of a Lady of Quality  
Person of Honour.

LONDON, Printed for J. Widdowes, at the  
Sign of the Tun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1704.  
and are to be sold by W. and J. Smith, at the  
Gate in Pall-mall, 1704.

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THE  
EPISTLE  
TO THE  
Modish Ladies of the Age.

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**T**O repair the fault of having perswaded some of you, (*Ladies*) to do formerly what you ought not, I have now taken in hand to advise you all, to do what you ought; which is to abandon the idle follies, and pastimes of a vain London life, and to embrace the blessed comfort and felicity of pure Innocence and Vertue, which is the most excellent and charming beauty of the Soul; and which, among other virtues of wisdom, Solomon commends as the choicest perfection in your Sex, when he tells you, that a Woman that feareth the Lord shall be praised; so that a religious life is the most pure resemblance of your beauty, and not any pride or affected vanity, that can make you commendable, for they rather like blemishes stain your native Colours and Complexion, deface

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## The E P I S T L E to the

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*the Image of your vertue, and sully the glory of your reputation; so that Ladies, 'tis not your looking well, but your living so, that adds a Grace and Ornament to your Beauty, that brightens you like Stars shining in the Heavens; and therefore when your vertue like the Queens Daughter shines all glorious within, then you may be said to come nearest to the nature of Angelical purity, or to the beauty of that holiness which is Heavenly.*

*My design therefore here is not to Praise or Complement your natural features, but rather to reprove or regulate your vanities, not to court your persons but to reform your lives; and tho I am sensible, that the Harangues of Court Complements and Praises, are the Customary civilities given you in all Books made publick in your Names, yet I shall now spare that usual Complement to you, and trouble to my self, being now become a rebel to beauties sovereign power; for as the blemishes of age, forbid all Ladies fancying me, so it absolves me from any necessity of Courting them; and therefore for such Ladies as are truly good, their own vertues will commend them, nor can they receive any disadvantage, by what I write of the vanities of others, no more, than that the Sun can fall short of its glory, for that 'tis sometimes encircled with a Cloud.*

*But now Ladies give me leave, before I proceed any farther upon this Subject, to become my  
own*



own Confessor, and to tell you, both to my own shame and trouble, the reasons how these discourses, come to be exposed to publick view and censure, and this (I am sure) will be a favour, since 'tis so unusual for you to hear the plain truth in this false Romantick age, where scarce any thing but Complements appear in publick (especially in vain Ladies company) vertue and truth being little esteemed, and less followed; yet not to detain you longer, I will here freely tell you the true real motives and occasion of publishing these Discourses, which was not (I'll assure you) for any affected vanity or conceit of my own wit or learning, to which I can have no pretence (not having been ever bred a Scholar) nor yet through any natural aversion to Women, as if I designed to affront them, by detecting their vices; for alas (I must ingenuously own) that has been too much the fond inclination and vanity of my life; but I was solicited hereto by the Importunities of a Lady, to whom I had some time ago presented some of these Discourses, as they were indeed justly due to her, whose discourse of your vanities (Ladies) gave the first birth to this unhappy off-spring, and was the occasion of my rambling thoughts upon this Subject, never design'd by me to appear abroad, had not this Lady first, unknown to me, sent a Copy to the Printer, of which afterwards giving me some kind of Inclination, I was obliged, (in my own right) to review the Original, and so to publish it under the Character that



## The E P I S T L E to the

you now receive it, since I found, that I could not call it in (as I designed) wholly to suppress it; and what favoured this adventure the more, was, that being newly freed from publick business, (as being displaced from my Military Command) I found my self now more than ever the Master of my own thoughts and business, and so I came to fancy that a Country private life, would suit best with my own retired humor, and narrow fortune, which I entred into more than a Year since; and being than a stranger to all my Neighbours abroad, I was forced to make acquaintance at home and to bring me acquainted with my self, so as to be able to entertain my self alone, with my self; (a thing not at all in fashion among you vain Ladies) and being thus retired out of the Tumultuous crowds and hurries of London, and the trouble of a publick Employment, I resolved to make it my business to take a strict examination of my own life, and faults, and in the large Muster-Roll of them, I found in the first rank of my vices, an ill and foolish distemper of loving and delighting too much in the Company of you vain handsome Ladies, and that it was a fault I was early inclined to, long infected with, and had wasted too much of my time and expence about; and in the sad mortifying humor I was then in, I took a resolution of banishing that dearly beloved and Delilah vice; and I could think of no better expedient to effect my design than to write a bill of Divorce, by publishing defiance, and proclaiming  
War

## Modish Ladies of the Age.

*War against all Womens beauty, but yet to do it, with as much respect, tenderness, and justice as I could; so that I now make my Confession beforehand, that I have here painted the vain Ladies Lives much worse than I truly think they are; meerly to make my own life a little better than 'tis; using the same way as they do, to mend crooked sticks, overbend one side in order to make the other strait.*

*And therefore (vain Ladies) I humbly beg your pardon, for being here so Uncourtier-like, Clownish and ill bred as to tell you here (what I shall hereafter,) that 'twere much better, if you would think more of the felicities of the other World, and less of the vanities of this; and that you would be as much concerned for the good state of your Souls, as you are for the good looks of your faces; for then I conclude Ladies, you would pray more at Church, and talk less abroad among your selves; for really many of you little consider, what you speak, so it be but much, for then you fancy it must be good, because 'tis French like, which has made it so in fashion, as if much talking were the grand Liberty of the She Subject, and the chief Doctrin in that good Book, called The Ladies Calling, and tho we read that S. Paul recommends the Doctrine of Silence, yet 'tis not a Modish precept for this Age, because not according to the French-belle-assurance so much in fashion among the Ladies, who cry up Confidence to so high a degree in all  
they*

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The E P I S T L E to the

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*they say or do, that it passes now for good behaviour, and much prating for great Ingenuity, when to talk much, tho to no purpose, is to be witty.*

*Therefore Ladies for you who affect this vanity, I pray reflect a little on the great difference between the French breeding, that teacheth you to talk much, and S. Paul's Lesson that orders you to learn Silence, (if it were indeed possible to argue you Talkative Ladies into this belief,) for many among you rally at S. Paul, saying, Tho he was called a Saint, yet he was never bred a Courtier; and tho he ended his days at Rome, yet he never spent any of his time at Paris or London, and therefore his Doctrin of Silence is as much out of fashion among the witty Ladies of the Age, as vertue is among our young vain Gallants, or indeed a strict pious life with both.*

*Really among most of you ( Ladies,) Religion is grown but a meer Sunday Devotion, or little else, than an outward Church Ceremony, where (I am afraid) many of you go more out of Custom, than for Devotion; more for Companies sake, than to praise God; more to see the young Men, than to hear the Preacher, minding more how they look, than what he says.*

*If an old Man prays with Zeal, he is gazed on, and often scoffed at for an antick piece of mortality; if a young Man appears devout, he is presently Censured formal, or that he counterfeits Piety to decoy some rich Puritan Widow for a Wife,*

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## Modish Ladies of the Age.

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*a Wife, or an old Presbyterian Parent of an Estate, or upon any account you please, except that of sincerity and conscience, which you vain Ladies allow to be only fit for morose spirits or dying persons, and so not to be thought on till long sickness, or grey hairs.*

*But 'tis now, Ladies, more than time to end this, and your trouble by a Conclusion, having already made the Porch too large for the Building; and therefore I should have Complemented you with a short Dedication, which as I know in Plays sounds modish in the Ladies Ears; so doubtless in Books of greater size, it would have been no less graceful and obliging; but having now no design to entertain you with any vain Praises, or yet Complements of flattery, I must beg, Ladies, your Excuse, and hope your good Nature and Charity will be pleased to pardon me, for the trouble of this, which is the first of this kind that I ever gave you, and on my Credit shall be the last. And therefore if your kind Hearts will do nothing for my sake, yet I pray do something at least for your own; and consider, as it would be thought madness, to fight with the wind you cannot see, so it would be esteemed no less folly to quarrel with you know not whom; and I wish, I could truly say, for you know not what. And therefore pray, Ladies, follow my Advice, and since this little Brat of a Book has no Father that will own it, if after Reading you*  
*do*



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## THE E P I S T L E.

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*do not find it worth your keeping, e'en leave it on the Parish, for that's bound to maintain it; and remember that Civility still sets off Beauty, and cruelty belongs only to the ill natured; therefore let me beg you not to use these poor Discourses worse than some of you do the common Beggars, that is, if you want Charity to relieve its wants, do not so abound in ill nature, as to jeer at its defects.*

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# CONTENTS.

The First Discourse,

**O***F Young Mens great folly, in adoring,  
and overpraising all young handsome  
Ladies; and their greater vanity in re-  
ceiving it, and believing them. page 1*

The Second Discourse,

*Of the extraordinary governing Power, that  
Womens Beauty now exercises over most  
Men. p. 21*

The Third Discourse,

*Of the Inconstancy of most Ladies, especially  
such as are cried up Beauties, and the  
folly of any one that believes he is fully ac-  
quainted with, and solely possess'd of a vain  
Beauties heart, and can give good reasons  
for the various motions of her Love-changes.*

*p. 42  
The*

---

## THE CONTENTS.

---

### The Fourth Discourse,

*Of Marriage, and Wives who usurp a governing Power over their Husbands, which is now so common, as it is almost become the general grievance of the Nation.* p. 52

### The Fifth Discourse,

*Of the Inequality of many Marriages, and the Inconstancy of most Wives, that Men Marry for meer Beauty, or their Parents Match for bare Mony, with the sad end that usually attends such Matches.* p. 65

### The Sixth Discourse,

*Against Maids Marrying for meer Love, or only to please their Parents Inclinations, when quite contrary to their own.* p. 88

### The Seventh Discourse,

*Against WIDOWS Marrying.* p. 97

The

---

## THE CONTENTS.

---

### The Eighth Discourse,

*Against keeping of MISSES.* p. 113

### The Ninth Discourse,

*Of the vain folly of such Ladies who think to shew their Wit, by Jeering and Censuring their Neighbours.* p. 121

### The Tenth Discourse,

*Of French Fashions and Dresses, now used in England, by the modish Ladies, and young Sparks.* p. 139

### The Eleventh Discourse,

*Of Worldly Praises, which all Ladies love to receive, but few strive to deserve; with the sad end of it, and them, when they come to Die.* p. 154

The

---

## THE CONTENTS.

---

### The Twelfth Discourse,

*Useful Advices, in order to the vain modish  
Ladies well Regulating their Beauty and  
Lives.*

P. 176

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THE FIRST  
DISCOURSE,

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*Of young Mens great folly, in adoring, and  
overpraising all young handsom Ladies;  
and their greater folly in receiving it,  
and believing them.*

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**T**IS not more natural for heat to attend *Fire*, nor more common for the *Sun* to exhale vapours from the *Earth*, than 'tis for great *Beauty* to attract high Praises from young Men; and truly such of them, as have wit to spare, time to loose, favour to hope for, and no other world to think of, are fittest to Court their Beauty in this which is but modish breeding, and suitable to most mens practice and all handsom *Ladies* expectation I do not say merit.

And such *Men* as are pretenders to *raillying* wit, and *French* breeding, may shew both, by entertaining them with Courtly Harangs, all set out with high Praises, and great Complements, (which few *Men* speak as their belief, but most *Ladies* receive as their desert,) and  
A with



with such *Idolizing postures*, and *Dying expressions*, as if they design'd their fellow Creatures to be perfect *Goddesses*, who were made like *Nebuchadnezzars golden Image*, only to be worshipped, so naturally agreeable are such *sinful adorations* to vain *Ladies*, as the first *temptation* we read of in *Scripture* that ever prevail'd on *Woman*, was that of being made *like to God*, and that *Woman* then compriz'd in her self, the whole species of *Women* kind, and indeed 'tis very probable, that her aspiring presumption then to more knowledge than she ought to have had, does still punish most of her Sex with less *Wisdom* than they need to have;

Really if *handsom Ladies* had but that share of *Prudence* which they ought to have as good *Christians*, and to use in the practical part of *Christianity*, to which all *Women* are called, (though few strive to be chosen) they would never endure, much less countenance, such young *Men* to Court and magnifie them at such an *extravagant rate*, as to present them with that *Composition of Praises*, meerly for vain *pastime*, or whats worse, evil ends, which ought to be attributed to *divine Worship* only; nor can there be a more clear and plainer Argument to prove *Womens* want of wisdom, then that many of them will receive such profane *Praises*, not as the vain effects of young Mens wicked folly, but as the deserved *Trophies* of their own conquering beauty and merit. All I shall

shall say is, that such courtly Incense, suits well with such a vain false Deity, and that such young Women are as foolishly guilty in receiving such vain Attributes, as such young Men are highly profane in offering them:

Thus Men by the deceitful reflexes of high praises, divert young Women from remembering their Creator in the days of their Youth, and possibly all the time of their Life, by Charming them with their own Charms, and disguising themselves, to themselves; and by telling them so often what they are not, makes them forget what they really are; and by these means they advance their minds so far above any dismal thoughts of their own mortality, that truly few of our young cry'd up beauties now adays, scarce hears any thing of *Death*, but what they are *Romanticly* told their own *killing beauty* does occasion, though in truth, if we read the *Weekly Bills of Mortality*, we shall find that the effects of *Anger* kill many more, than the *passion* of Love; Men being often Angry with many Men at once, but never in Love with more than one Woman at a time, and that one it self, is too many by one.

But my design being not to Court the young Ladies with high Complements, but to serve them with great reality, I must assure them that these *high praises*, the more they are trusted, the more they'll betray, and the more you

*Ladies* confide in their worth, the more you'll be deceiv'd in their value; so that it follows by the plain *Rule* of common reason, that so much as you deduct of *Mens* overpraises, so much you lessen of your own self deceivings. Indeed these poysoned *Darts* of praises, have got such a predominant power over most young handsom *Women*, (and the most handsom, are most subject to them,) that most of them are in danger of being wounded by them, because the peril of *flattery* still mounts with the degrees of *beauty*, as the *Suns* heat still increases proportionable as it rises.

*Flattery* and vain-glorious *praises* are both insinuating *Devils*, two *Twins* begot by the father of Lies, and these not only attempt all, but possess most vain handsom *Ladies*; and therefore they ought above all, to be very strict, and diligently active, to shun such tempting discourse, and avoid such dangerous Company, or at least when with them, to be sure still to carry about them *S. James* his good direction and antidote, *resist the Devil, and he will flie from you.*

Really if young *Ladies* would but take a steddy resolution to resist and slight all young *Mens* vain Courtships, and place no such high estimation on their own *beauty*, they would easily do the like on mens *praises*, and by this means young *Gallants* would slacken in their Courtships, proportionable to the young *Ladies* cooling

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ing in their receptions of it, and so make Men despise Womens beauty, suitable to their slighting *Mens Love*, and thus Womens prudence, would become Mens wisdom, for in real truth, 'tis hope of gain makes love *Merchants* as well as others; none watch *Bees* but for their *Hony*, and few Court fair *Ladies* but for some hopes of a return; and therefore you never hear of any of the young *Sparks* that plant their *Love Batteries* against *Nunneries*, not because they think the young Women in them have too little beauty, but because they believe they shall meet there with too great a resistance, by the care they take, and strictness they use, to prevent Mens making any *Addresses* and near *approaches* to them: for as *Mr. Cowley* says, a well govern'd heart, like rich *China*, admits *Men* only to the *Frontier* part; for a strict vertue sets certain bounds to young handsom *Womens* carriage and behaviour towards *Men*, which they are not to exceed; as the *Almighty* gave to the *Sea*, so far you shall go, and no farther.

And though I know there's no such thing now adays in practice among our young *Men*, as *Angel Love*, which is the pure *Commerce* of the *Souls*, yet I believe *Venus Love* does not rage so very much, nor is its infection so very strong and rife, as *Censurers* would fain have it, making our *Age* much worse than 'tis, when *God* knows 'tis but too bad, at best; as if the



youth of both Sexes were now so corrupt, as that a *young Gentleman* cannot visit a *young Lady*, nor a *young Lady* receive visits from a *young Gentleman*, without imputation of scandal, or the censure of ill and vicious designs on both sides; tho I verily believe, *some young Men*, (I do not say *all*, nor yet many) love *Womens* company, and *Women Mens*, on no other account than for their great wit, good humor, and agreeable Conversation, without any farther ends.

And now I am beginning to enter into that part of this *Discourse* which principally *addresses it self to the* handsom *young Maiden Ladies*, and chiefly among them, to such as are innocently and modestly bred, for such sort of *young Women* often entertain discourses, and make acquaintances with *young Men*, without the least thought of love, or design of ill, many of them looking civilly, and talking freely to them, on no other account, than to shew and exercise their wit, and that may be more to please their own fancy, than on design to take that of others; but yet I must advise such *young Women* to consider, that *meer civil looks* often tempt, and *refusals* may be given after such a manner, as may rather embolden one to ask more, than to beg pardon for having asked too much; for as one well observes of strict vertuous Women, *That Man comes too near to them, that comes to be denied*  
by



by them. Indeed 'tis not *very* rare now a days, for *civil looks* in young Women to breed *Adulterous* thoughts in young Men, for the Gospel tells us that there is an *Adultery of the Eye*, and I am sure we ought all to remember with *grief of mind*, that as soon as the *Serpent* had perswaded that the *forbidden fruit* was pleasant to the *Eye*, it soon follow'd that it became delightful to the *Tast*; if Mens Vows of Love, and Oaths of Constancy, can but once tempt young *Maids appetites to taste*, 'twill soon make them anticipate their *fears to eat*.

Therefore *Ladies* have a care of receiving Mens praises and flatteries, and though you believe your own *Virtue* never so strong, and your *Lovers Courtship* never so innocent, as possibly they may be at first received by you, and design'd by him, only as the effects of pure *civility*, and not of any ill *intention*; yet praises are so naturally agreeable to vain handsom *Ladies*, as they often unperceiv'd insinuate, and wind themselves so about their hearts, as to kindle there by degrees *Love likings*, though perhaps they do not feel so much as the least slight *atome* Love to creep on the *superficies* of their *heart*; Love sometimes like a *Tortoise* makes its way, though it does not seem to *stir*, or like the hand of a *Watch*, which though you cannot perceive to move, yet you may plainly see its hourly *advances*; Love often

growing in *young Womens* minds, as *Diseases* do in their bodies, without ever giving the least Alarm or Advertisement of its approach, till it breaks out into a dangerous fit of *Sickness*.

*Solomon* says, a soft word breaks the Bane, therefore no wonder if *smooth* praises and complements should charm a young Ladies tender heart; for sure 'tis no wonderful operation in our times, for small freedoms like little Thieves to open the Doors to great Liberties, and venial wantonness, to turn to modish wickedness.

Therefore let me advise the vain Ladies, not to deceive themselves in fancying that they are more invincible in their Love railleries, in receiving praises from young Men, than King Solomon was with dallying with strange Women, which drew him into the Sin of Idolatry. This example may serve as a Caution to young Ladies, not to rely too much on their own strength; for many Maids hearts, like strong Fortresses, have been lost by too great a dependency upon their own strength, and too mean an undervaluing of others attempts against them: I shall therefore advise all young Ladies, especially Virgins, by no means on any account, to suffer their beauty to lie under the pressing temptations of young Mens high praises, and constant Courtship which often enflames them beyond their own natural temper and strength; for continual blowing, is able to kindle

dle in time, a great Fire out of a little Spark : And also young handsom Women ought to avoid giving or receiving any favourable attracting looks from young Men ; for the Eye is as well the Pulse of the Mind, as the Door of the Heart, and no Love flames can enter into the heart, but it must first enter the Eye, as we see the Sun it self, still sends his light, before he brings his heat.

Next Ladies remember that the Scripture couples with the lust of the Eye, the pride of Life, as a lesson to teach you, that you ought as much to well order your looks, as to regulate your lives which you may perform much the easier and better, if you will but seriously reflect on the ways and means young Gallants use in making their approaches towards gaining their Mistresses ; (I do not here intend as to the making them Mistresses in order to being Wives but Misses) which is usually after this kind of manner ; first they present them with swarms of Praises and Complements, thick garnished with great Oaths and repeated Vows, of a never dying love, and a never failing constancy, and all attended with sad looks, deep sighs, and humble postures ; ( no matter though there be not one grain of reality among them all, ) and if these Counterfits can but work so powerful an Operation on their Mistresses soft good nature, as to make them receive the constant repeated Oaths of their highly adoring them, with  
some

some kind of delight; they are then in a sad yielding condition; for such Womens hearts cannot pretend to be stronger than fortified Towns, which when they once come to admit of frequent parlies, seldom hold out after long Sieges, but yeild to a Surrender.

Certainly if young Gallants can by their eager courting their Mistrisses, but gain of them some returns of compassion and esteem, next of course follows a favourable liking of them, and then there's no very great difficulty, after such prosperous advances, to create in them the beginnings of a Love fondness; and fondness in a young *Womans heart*, like a *weighty body* down a steep *Hill*, it seldom stops till it runs to the *very bottom*; and when a *Gallant* has work'd his *Mistris* into such a yielding temper, as to credit his *Oaths*, and be pleas'd with his *Company*, as believing he truly loves her, and highly admires her, and so grows *delighted* with the *Repetition* of them, esteeming all his Courtship real, then surely they cannot on the account of good Nature, and pure Civility, forbear presenting their *Gallants*, though to *their own ruin*, this new *Article* of their *Faith*, that they believe their *Oathes*, and love their *Persons*, and when once they declare that, common experience may soon teach them this, that 'tis no great rarity in young *Maids* by liking of young *Men*, to stray into vicious *actings* with them; and thus by these *kinds* of  
degrees



degrees and steps, *Gallants* commonly mount to their *Mistrisses* ruin; for as the *Poet* says, *Long waiting Love doth still a passage find*, to the most unbelieving *mind*, at least to the blasting her Reputation, if not the utter undoing of her vertue, fortune, and freedom; for when once a *Gallant* is become *Master* of his *Mistrisses* heart, he commonly swells to a *Monster*, and governs like a *Tyrant*, and instead of *treating* you like an ador'd *Mistris*, he uses you like a conquer'd *Captive*.

Now I have told the *young Ladies* some of the *common* ways their *Gallants* use to gain them by, give me leave here in a word or two, to tell you their usual manner of treating them, after they have gain'd an entire Conquest over their hearts, which is very bad, and sinful in then to suffer. Therefore, let me advise you to carry still this *Memorandum* about you, That all your *Gallants* dying expressions, *Love-Oaths*, *Idolizing postures*, and often repeated *Vows*, that their admiration, and love for you, shall be as lasting as their Lives, which translated out of the Lovers *Language* into true plain *English*, is no more but just as long as they shall fancy your Beauty; for usually as fast as their *Mistrisses* beauty breaks, so do their *Oaths* of Love and Constancy, which they think they are bound to keep no longer, than their *Mistrisses* keep their beauty, as being but the meer effects of that



that cause, and the *cause* being *remou'd*, the *effect* must of course cease, and besides there's nothing more certain than that *skin deep* beauty, seldom creates better than meer *sensual love*, which never contains reality, or long *duration*.

But *Ladies* if this were all it would not be so very bad, or indeed this is only the least part of it, and when your *Gallant* has enjoy'd you, methinks you ought not to wonder that he honours you no longer as his *Mistress*, when you dishonour your self by becoming his *Miss*; for fancy what you please, an enjoy'd *Mistress* is no better, let her *Quality* be never so good, and her beauty never so great, and there's no *Woman* ought to think it strange, that her *Gallant* after enjoyment, undervalues her, when by it, she shews him the way, by first undervaluing her self, and so ought to expect little Love, and less Courtship, but rather much slighting, if not aversion; for this is most certain, *Ladies*, that though your *Gallants* use all flattering means and arts, not sparing their *Oaths* or *Money*, *Soul* or *Purse*, to purchase your good Nature, (I should have said sinful folly,) to bless them, as they call it, with the enjoyment of you, (that is, to curse your selves by admitting it,) which when your *Gallants* have obtain'd on any terms, *Swearing* and *forswearing* not excepted they presently like greedy *Hawks*, who  
 as soon

as soon as they have fully gorg'd themselves on their *Quarry*, slight and turn *Tail* to the very same Game, which just before they flew so eagerly after, and grow soon as weary of an enjoy'd *Mistris*, as most *eldest Sons* are of their long *long liv'd Fathers*, or their ugly *monied Wives*; in a word, our *Amorous Age* is so very wicked and unchast, that really most of our young *Mens fiery Love* to the thing call'd a *Mistris*, is by our present *mode* become of the same nature of *Fire* it self, which all know cannot subsist long if not often recruited with fresh matter.

And I have yet, *Ladies*, something more to add, which is of a much worse consequence than all before, which is this, that after your *Gallants* have enjoy'd you, though never so much in private, they will not be satisfied unless they may boast of it in *Publick*, so vain are our young *Sparks*, as to take more satisfaction in the thoughts that others believe they enjoy their *Mistrisses*, than they themselves do in the actual enjoyment of them; our young Men retaining still so much of the old *Roman* pride, as to love the *Triumph* more than the *Conquest*, and indeed I am of opinion, that on the bragging account of enjoying *Mistrisses* now so much in fashion among the late *Debauchees*; those Men that boast they do, though they do it not, are not so bad, as those that boast of it in so vain-glorious a manner as to act a real Sin.

Then

Then the young *Gallant* can tell their enjoy'd *Mistrisses*, that meer love of beauty is but a meer amorous desire, and that none but *fools* desire what they possess, possession being the full end and accomplishment of all desire, and consequently of all beauty Love, and so laugh at the simplicity of those that will endure long the scorching flames of a violent Love passion, fancying none but the foolish barbarous *Persians* can long adore that Sun which burns them.

And our young *Gallants* are now generally grown so very nice, that they cannot feed on any thing, but sweet *variety*, which makes them rant in the *Hectoring Language* of the *Times*, and say that 'tis as *unmodish* to have but one *Mistress*, as to have none at all, and therefore Swear that *Mistrisses* enjoy'd though never so young and beautiful, are but like *Romances* read, and *Plays* once seen; and indeed methinks enjoy'd *Mistrisses*, ought not to wonder at their *Gallants* fickleness, it being not at all strange that an unvertuous *Love* should make an inconstant *Lover*.

And now I must beg leave to glance my discourse a little on a Fault, which some young *Ladies* commit, without ever considering 'tis one, which is sometimes to exercise their wit, shew their pride, and vanity, or gait of humor, or what else you please to call it, to make themselves sport and entertainment, spread abroad

abroad their fine *filken nets* of inticing arts, and attracting allurements, to incourage and invite some *young Fop*, to become fond of one of their Company, as his dearly *beloved*, and highly admir'd *Mistress*, only that they may have thereby, the better means and occasion to railly, and make pastime with him, never considering that by making him thus to fall in love with one of them, he is obliged by the general Rules, and *common practices* of our *Modern refin'd Lovers*, to magnify and extoll her beauty; and never to be sparing of his Oaths and Lies, in praising her perfections, and his own overflowing passion and so cause him to sin in earnest, though probably design'd by the *Lady* as a Jest; but 'twill be no sufficient excuse in this bad kind of raillery, to say your intention was innocent, since its effect is culpable, *for we are not to do ill, that good may come of it; and sure much less to do ill, where no good can come of it*, and I am sure this is an undeniable truth, That she who makes another do an ill thing, does an ill thing herself, by her making another to do it.

Therefore *Ladies*, whether in Jest or Earnest, if you are truly *vertuous*, and desire really to continue so, and that the world should esteem you such, as designing to admit men only to admire your Persons but never to ruin your virtue; the best way to effect it is never to let them Court your *beauty*; for remem-



member that the *Fire* of Love is like that of *Anger*, a *short*, but *fierce madness*; for a Man that's in Love, during the raging *fit* of his enflam'd lustful passion, talks light and idly, for a Lovers heart rises and falls, is happy and unhappy, according as his *Mistress* is kind or unkind, it being indeed but very suitable to the folly of being in Love, that such a *Lovers* heart, should never move according to the *dictates* of his own reason, but the vain motions of his *Mistresses* fickle fancy; and therefore because such *Men* know not what they do, their *Mistresses* ought not to mind what they say, nor admit their *Addresses*, though they pretend them in *jest*, or for meer pastime, and not to kindle their hopes, when they mean never to feed their desires, but avoid conversing with them, and entertaining of them; for surely all persons ought to avoid mad Bedlam acquaintances, and young Men *during* their distracted *Love passion*, value not what *Praises* they present, what *Offers* they make, nor indeed what price they give, to purchase the enjoyment of their dear *Mistresses*, though it be at the damnable rate of long continued *Idolatry*, and often repeated *Perjury*.

O strange and wicked madness, that these kind of Lovers cannot be content to give their *Mistresses* their heart for a little time, without giving their Souls to the *Devil* for ever, and fancy he is as very obliging as they



they are foolish, and inconstant, and that the *Devil* will as easily forget the *Oaths* they made to him, as they do theirs they made to their *Mistresses*, which were intended but as meer *Courtiers Complements*, which are meant no longer than they are speaking, and therefore ought to be thought on no longer than they are hearing; but though such Lovers fancy they give their Souls to the *Devil* but in *jest*, yet he will be careful to keep them in *earnest*, for if they will commit the sin of making such *Oaths*, let them have a care the *Devil* be not permitted to make them endure the Hellish *Penance* of keeping them, God will not be mocked.

I have enlarged this Discourse on the folly of Mens overpraising and Courting Women, with great Confidence, because I fancy with much *Experience*, though I am sure with little *Prudence*, for I *confess* such *experience* was bought too dear, yet I have this satisfaction, that the fault of committing a vice, do's not consist in the confession of it, but in the yeilding to it, and therefore I own I have served much more than a thrice seven years *Prenticeship* in the *Trade* of Love, and its foolish appendant *Train* of Fopperies, which was (*I confess*) a great fault against the well spending of my time, which might have been much better employ'd in the duties of *Religion*, than in the pastimes and vain company of modish Wo-

*men*; but I have now serv'd out my Time, in that foolish *Trade*, and am become a perfect *freeman*, as to that folly of Courting all modish Ladies; not that I am at all grown a *Woman hater*, or a precise *Puritan*, or such a true Disciple of *Job*, as to make a *Covenant with mine Eyes*, not to behold a handfom Woman, for I shall still own, *I look upon all beautiful Women*, to come nearest of all Creatures in *brightness* and *splendor* to the glorious *Angels*, and am very much pleased, when I can pass away an hour or two in an afternoon, among such of them as are not irreligious, but of a vertuous reputation, and are good Wits, free humor'd, and of pleasant Converse, for 'tis not keeping company with, but paying an *adoration* to, Ladies *beauty*, that makes the crime sinful; as 'tis not making *Images* to adorn *Churches*, but building *Churches* to worship *Images*, that makes the *Idolatry*.

And since *Recreation* for the mind is as well necessary as *Exercise* for the body, I see no reason why it may not be lawful for me to recreate my self, now and then in an afternoon, in such good young Womens company and conversation, to hear their opinions, and discourses, (which the rude sort of Men call *Twattlings*) on the *Stories* of the place, and their several fancies and judgments on the divers *Fashions* then worn; who are the Women most talk'd of, for whom, and what *beauties* are highest

est cried up, and which of them loves most, and carries on an *Intrigue* best, lives highest, wears the *richest Clothes*, keeps the *finest Equipage*, and has most Gallants, and this Gentlewoman is to be Married to that Gentleman, who in a little time will find her *Debts* much greater than her *Beauty* or *Portion* either, and such a pretty *Maid* is to be Married by a *Match* of her Parents making to such a one, in whom she will be very unhappy, her heart being prepossessed by another, and such an old *Man* is jealous of his *young Wife* without a Cause, and such a *young Man* is not jealous of his handsom Wife with one, and the like *Subjects*, which I grant in severe strictness, may be truly call'd an omission, in not spending our time so well as we ought, which I look upon to be more a *venial vice*, than an *unpardonable sin*, and therefore do not believe that the knowledge of my *infirmity*, ought to be the *despair* of my *Recovery*; but I am truly pleas'd that all unlawful designs, and unchast desires as to Women, are banished from my heart, and that *Vertue* has made me quite leave them, before *Age* has made them quite leave me.

But 'tis more than time to finish this Discourse, for I have dwelt longer on it than I intended, but the trouble of it, I hope the *Ladies* will the more easily pardon, since 'tis not only a fault, but a habit, that I have been much subject to, and long infected with,

which is to be loth to part with *young Womens* Company, when I am once got into it, and therefore I will conclude this *Discourse*, with this Complement to the Ladies, that I heartily wish it may prove as satisfactory and advantageous to them, as to make them all now as fond of *piety*, as I was once of *beauty*, and that they may continue to love it, as many years as I did them, and then I dare assure them this double blessing, That they shall neither live ill, nor die young.

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THE

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THE SECOND  
DISCOURSE.

*Of the extraordinary governing Power that  
Womens beauty now exercifes over most  
Men.*

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**B** *Less me, and deliver me !* What a strange Subject do I now fall on, and into what a vast *Sea* am I now *Imbarking*, the *Bay of Biskay* with all its proud swelling waves, is but as a calm pond to it, for that only tosses Ships into the Air, and presently brings them down again ; but this Subject elevates my Pen above the *Skie*, and there leaves it : for Womens governing *Power*, has no certain Top nor Bottom, but *Circle like*, is without beginning or end, how can it possibly be then describ'd, it being a meer *Maze* of difficulties, and a *Labyrinth* of Confusions, in which it has made so many cross Paths of pride and folly, vanity and power, as I know not which to take, or which to leave, where to advance,



or how to retreat, and yet I find in my self an earnest inclination to venture on it, though I am sure to be lost in it; for I must expect that this dull and short *Discourse* on the voluminous Subject of beauties mighty power, can have no other fate than that of *Rivers*, which still run with an eager haste, though it be only to plunge themselves into the *Sea*, in which they are presently lost.

*Story* tells us of some *English Frigats* that sail'd up to *Constantinople*, and were there so generally admir'd, that the great *Turk* himself went to see them, and was very much taken with their beauty, shape and strength, and being told there were hundreds finer in *England*, he commanded that the *Map* of the World should be presently brought him, that he might see that brave *Kingdom*, which produced such gallant effects, the *Map* being come, he laid his finger carelessly on it, and ask'd whereabouts *England* was, but the person that was to shew it him, told him he could not do it, till he took off his finger, for it quite cover'd that *Kingdom*.

Thus one Inch of the Worlds Map serves to set out all *Englands Confines*, but a hundred sheets of Paper cannot half describe the extraordinary bounds of *Womens* usurping power: if I look up towards the height of it, I am confounded at the sight of so bright and clear a *Scene* of meer fanciful splendor, and if I look  
down-

downwards on it, I meet in my *Compass*, crowds of Adorers and Suitors thick prostrate at their feet, some courting their great *beauty*, others admiring their high *power*, some begging their *favour*, but most bribing their *interest*.

But though their beauty cannot at all *dazle* my sight, yet this Subject do's indeed *puzzle* my Pen, for really I am so far from knowing how to end this Discourse, as I profess I know not yet where to begin it, and indeed when I have writ all I can on it, I fancy I can make no other than this *whole-sale judgment* of it, That beauties universal governing Power is of a *miraculous nature* like that of the *Ebbing and Flowing of the Sea*, every body may daily see its strange effects, but none can give a good reason for the true cause; therefore I am sure my weakness ought not to attempt, what the strength of wit, and *Philosophy* could never perform.

So that I am resolv'd to venture on this Subject, but as little *Boys* do on a great *River*, not hazard far on it, for fear of being lost in it, but content themselves with wading a little on the Brink of it, and there to dable and wash them, out of the reach of its great depth, and fierce stream.

And though I know that the cause of Mens so enslaving themselves to handsom Womens *power* cannot spring but from a mean slavish nature,

nature, and so ought not to be look'd upon better by any considering Men, than a kind of Kingdom in the *Moon* or *Fairy Land*, only hatch'd by the fiery amorous Love, of a high, lustful, and enflam'd distemper'd passion; seated in the vain *Aiery Region*, of meer foolish imagination, being not grounded on any foundation of true reason or good consideration.

Yet I cannot imitate the *Map makers*, who still leave a blank for their *Terra Incognita*, but I must fill up my Paper, and rather than not write more of it, I will leave of scratching my head, and breaking my brain any longer about it, to find out how, and where to begin this desperate Subject, it being like a *Coal* all over red hot, there's no touching it in any part, without *burning* one finger, 'tis like a *Hedge-Hogg* all over prickles, so that 'twill be almost as hard a task for me to know how to hit upon a safe good way to begin this Discourse, as to find a sure means to put an end to Womens governing power. But since I must begin, I will as all *Builders* do, never mind to have the first foundation stone cut into any shape; so I am resolv'd to lay my first entrance into this Discourse, on the Courtships, and power of the *Welch Ladies*, for there I fancy the Men take no pains, nor use any arts to square or polish their Addresses; but only take what comes uppermost, as they arise out of pure Natures Quarry.

And

And truly I am of opinion that according to the Rules of sober reason, and naked truth, the *Welch* ought to be esteem'd the more for it, since as 'tis a general approv'd Rule, that of evils we ought still to choose the least; so sure by the same rule of proportion, we ought of troubles to choose the shortest, which being granted, we must necessarily come to own, that the *Welch* Courtship, and manner of making Love, must needs surpass our great Masters of that Trade the *French*; for the *Welch* are all plain honest dealing Men, and good kind friends, who are well acquainted with one anothers humors; and therefore esteem it superfluous to make many words to a Bargain, which makes them railly both the *English* and the *French*, who they say dare not approach their *Mistrisses* but with humble looks, and obedient postures, speaking as *Solomon* says, *Prov. 6. 13. With their feet, by making so many Legs before they come to them,* and those with as much exactness, as *Poets* make Verses, where every syllable must be weigh'd, that they may keep just Measures, and true *Cadence*, as well in their approaches as addressees: Nor dare they speak to them but with large Harangues of Praises, still besieging their *Mistrisses* with Armies of Complements, in admiration of their beauty and perfections, and most of these fierce great Lovers, (I had almost said worse) differ and excel one another,



ther, in their manner of Addresses, means of Approaches, expences in Presents, degrees of Courtship, and ways of Treating and the like; whereas the plain dealing honest *Welch-men*, are most of an equal kind of breeding and birth, being all Gentlemen of *Wales*, and most of them *high born*, which is a truth, all that have Travell'd thorow their Country will easily believe, since really in one sense, few of them can be other, considering the many elevated *Mountains* their Country is made up with, and yet I often observ'd in my Travelling through it, that the Men of that Country, are generally of a very plain breeding, and much of a level *Capacity*, for though *Wales* is highly seated, yet 'tis but of a short extent, which occasions the whole *Country* to lie under the same degree of *Elevation*.

And as the *Welch Gentry* have for the most part an aversion to the *Roman Doctrin*, so they have no fancy for *Romance Courtship*, few studying the one, and fewer practising the other, and yet for all they are both great *Vertuosos*, and expert Soldiers in the Art of expeditiously managing a *Venus War*, and can sooner take by storm the *Fort* of their *Welch Mistrisses* heart, than the *English* or *French* can finish their Approaches to gain so much as the outworks of their *Mistrisses* civil and favourable Looks.

But

But I am stray'd from my *Theme*, and therefore I'll conclude my *Welch Travels*, and Interloping Discourses of *Wales*, leaving the *Welch Cavaliers* to the power of their own Country *Mistrisses*.

And take notice how we are now in *England* shrunk into such a *Brood* of unmasculine *Petticoat* Men that are such adorers of their *Mistrisses* beauty, as they cannot behold them but through the magnifying *Prospective* of their own enflam'd lustful passion, and amorous folly, which renders their *Mistrisses* beauty so large and Charming, and their *Power* so high and Mighty, that like the *possessed man in the Gospel*, they will run thorow fire and water, in their *Love fit*, and to feed their momentary flames, will venture those of everlasting Burning.

This wretched sort of *Slaves* to Womens *Power*, who in their Courtship and Addresses to gain their *Mistrisses* hearts, do so desperately hazard the loss of their own Souls, by offending God in their words and actions, resemble exactly those People of *Jerusalem* and *Judah*, which the *Prophet Isaiah* cap. 3. v. 8. speaks of, *They are fallen down because their Tongue and doings are against the Lord, provoking the Eyes of his Glory*.

And now the *Prophet* has told you their fault, he will also tell you their punishment, *The Lord of Host will take from them the Judge and the Prophet, the Prudent and the Ancient,*  
and

*and will give Children to be their Princes, and Babes to be their Governors; and pray what is the consequence of this noble Infant Government? why the Prophet tells you, Vers. 5. And the People shall be oppressed one by another, every one by his Neighbour, the Child shall behave himself proudly against the Ancient, and the base against the honourable, &c.*

And as 'tis a practical Art in Oratory to keep the best Arguments to bring up the Rear of the Discourse to leave the strongest Impression at the last, so God is pleased to reserve for the last, the greatest punishment of all, which he here threatens by the Prophet when he tells men, *verse 12. And Women shall rule over them.* Really 'tis a sign the Peoples stay and strength are gone, and their prudence out of Power, when Women are placed to Rule over them, from whence without the help of *Philosophy*, I can easily extract this *Observation*, That the *Almighty* who sure best knows the abilities of his own Creatures, places Women in the same Rank with *Children*, thereby plainly denoting, That a *Nursery* kind of *Government* suits best with Womens Power; and this kind of doctrine is in some manner confirmed by *S. Paul*, though in a larger Character, for he ascribes to Women as their fit sphere, and proper imployment, the *guiding of the house*, that is, the Women in it.

There

There is an *Author* who in his discourse of *Women* very well observes, that they have but three States of Life, *Virginity, Marriage, and Widdowhood*; for the first two they are, or ought to be, states of subjection to *Parents, and Husbands*; and for that of *Widdowhood*, God himself counts that state of life to be desolate and sad, the Almighty having design'd them for subjection and therefore accounts *Women* most miserable, when most at liberty from *Mans Power*.

And now surely out of these reasons and considerations of his, I may here safely, because truly, draw this undeniable Argument and conclusion.

That it cannot but be very bad for Men to be under *Womens Government*, when God says 'tis very sad for *Women* to be under their own.

And so I have done with the time, when 'twas appointed for *Women* to govern over Men; next of course follows the manner how they Ruled, and that we have an account of in few words, in the 12 verse of that Chapter aforementioned by the Prophet, *O my people says the Lord, Those, (that is the Women) that lead ye, cause you to err, and destroy the ways of thy Paths*: Thus we find that error and destruction, are the effects of *Womens* ruling power, it being contrary to the ways of Truth, (for it causeth Error,) and the Laws of Nature, of Reason, I cannot say of common Practice;



Practice; and it was here appointed to Women, not as a favour, but for a punishment, as an effect of Gods wrath against his People, it being a Reverse of the Fundamental Law which was made by God almost as soon as the World, I am sure as early as the first Man in it; for Sacred writ tells, that 'twas laid as a load on the first Woman for her disobedience to her Maker, that she should be subject to her Husband, and though to be so now, is but the practice of very few Wives of our Age, yet that do's not hinder it from being the duty of all from the beginning of the World.

Therefore let all our high *spirited governing Women*, who make their silly Husbands, and foolish Gallants, such slaves to their Power, because admirers of their beauty, remember what one very well observ'd, *That the day of the date of Womens Power over Man, was the day of the date of her sin against God*: It being most clear and plain, that from Adams time, the Woman ought to be in subjection to the Man, and therefore S. Paul said, *I will not have the Woman usurp an authority over the Man*, and seems to give the Reason, for first Adam was made, then Eve.

Seneca well observes in saying, *There is something of meanness in the most seeming gallant and inviting sin*; I am sure there is a great meanness of Spirit in Mens so subjecting themselves to Womens power, since such must in effect declare,

clare, that they have lost not only the Courage of Men, but the very Nature of *Gentlemen*, what did I say, they have lost the Nature of *Gentlemen*, nay I might have added, *the very natural right and reason of humanity*, and deserve to loose the great honour of being *English Men*, for such Petty-Coat Men ought to be Transplanted into the Suburbs of *England, Wales*, where the Language of that Country fits exactly their effeminate humor, who by a kind of *Welch Paradox*, call the Man, *hur*, not he, and indeed *hur*, suits better than *he*, with such a sort of *female Gentry*, who are composed of such *unmasculine Spirits*.

Really when I reflect on what Crowds there are of this pitiful rank of Men, who take so great pride and delight, in being constant adorers, and humble servants to their Mistresses beauty, not in railery, but in reality, who are as very happy in their own conceit, if their Mistresses do oblige them with a kind word, or favourable look, as if the *Day Star* from above had come to visit them, and to lead them into eternal light, and that all the *Aspects of the Stars* had combin'd together, to be *propitious* to them.

Yet after all 'tis a very great pity, that these sort of Mistresses, do not bestow on these kind of servants Lace to their Coats, for sure they are fools enough to deserve it, and I see no reason why such who are so ambitious of  
their

their service, should refuse to wear their Liveries, and be out of Countenance to be known Fools by their Coats, when they are not asham'd to deserve that name by their actions.

*Solomon says a slothful Man shall be covered with rags; and so indeed ought such Men, who are dull and drowsie in the exercise of their own power, and over-active in their obedience to Womens, for which they well deserve to wear the Colours of their Mistrisses Sovereignty, and their slavery, on the ragg'd Fools Coat of their own simplicity.*

Sure all such Men as will debase themselves into such an effeminate servitude, as to render it both easie and habitual to them, cannot pretend in the least to possess a noble or generous spirit, for that must be averse to it, since it makes a Man not only unfit to serve his *King and Country*, (the duty of every good Subject,) but even to be useful to himself, and family. Whereas if young Men studied *noble Sciences*, instead of courting *handsom Women*, who can only divert their Time, probably corrupt their Lives, whereas the practice of vertue, and the study of Men and business, with other useful Sciences, will refine and strengthen their knowledge, fortifie prudence in their actions, kindle Magnanimity in their hearts, raise glorious desires in their minds, and so polish and regulate all the weighty actions of their lives,

so as to render them fit to serve their Country, both in War and Peace, and themselves and families to boot, which advantage can never redound on either, by courting and serving beauty never so long, for meer beauty sake: And I wonder your beauty *Courtiers* do not observe, that great beauties seldom esteem, the long attendance, or great services of their *Adorers* as they ought, because they value more their own beauty than they should, which makes it common for such Women to ruin their Lovers liberty, to proclaim their own Sovereignty over it, and therefore sure it cannot appear very unreasonable, that such Men as will make themselves Slaves to Womens beauty, should pass for fools in sober Mens thoughts.

Indeed there's one Law (and but one Law I know) which though a *French* one, yet as great lovers as our *English* Ladies are of the *French* fashions; they are so far from esteeming or allowing it, as they will not endure so much as to hear it nam'd, and that's called the *Salick Law*, which in *France* prohibits the female Sex from wearing the Breeches, and Reigning, which our high-spirited governing Women in *England*, so hate the Name of, as there was a report, they were about calling a Parliament of Women, to vote it high Treason, against the Power of their present Government, to but name bringing that Law into  
 C *England;*



*England*; but as good fortune would have it, they could not agree among themselves about chusing a Speaker, for every one would be one, and knowing where all will speak aloud, none can be heard, they were necessitated in Prudence to dissolve that Parliament design.

But truly in *my opinion*, at the high rate of power Womens *beauty* now Governs, the *Ladies* have no cause to be concern'd, that the *Breeches* are not given to them by *Act of Parliament*, since it is freely bestowed on them by the *Custom of the Country*, and *Custom you know makes Laws*, and those as binding as any *the Act of Parliament*, since they are ratified and confirmed by the *Major part of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, as well as the Knights Burgesses, and Commons*, who by many Signs and Tokens give great cause of fear, that they have submitted, in a perfect obedience to beauties Sovereign power and Wives Government over their Husbands.

Indeed for the *Protestant Clergy*, they must be concern'd parties and fellow sufferers, in the general Calamity of having *Governing Wives*: but for the *Roman Clergy*, they are quite free from that misery and servitude, because they must never Marry, so that they can be no concern'd parties, as to their own Wives, and therefore may be aiding and assisting in promoting, and confirming Wives in their Universal Monar-

chy over their poor Husbands, which they are briskly sayling towards with a too prosperous Gail. But I hope the *Fates* will protect poor Husbands, from such an unnatural, shameful, and *Tyrannical* kind of *Government*; for if ever all Wives should attain to that *Supremacy* of Power, (which but too many have already,) Wives would then make such a total destruction of all Husbands authority over them, as the Wives *Monarchy* would be then as absolute in *England*, as that of the *French King* is now in *France*, and would make then their *Husbands* as great Fools, as that *King* do's now his ordinary *Subjects Slaves*: In short I really fancy, *English Wives* would be then as very resolute in maintaining their new *Franchises* over all their *Husbands* in *England*, as the *Pope* is now steady in destroying the old *Franchises* of all *Ambassadors* in *Rome*.

Then we must conclude, that *Diogenes* his *Prophecy* is fullfill'd, who order'd himself to be buried with his Face downward, saying, *The World will turn upside down*, and then he shall lie in his right place. Then we shall reckon as the old *Germans* and *Gauls* did, by *Nights*, not *Days*: Then we shall look on all *Government*, as we read *Hebrew*, that's backward. Then that Verse shall be razed out of the Bible, that says the *Woman is the weaker Vessel*: Nor shall *S. Pauls* instruction to *Titus* when he left him in *Crete*, pass for good

practical Doctrin, 1 *Tim.* 12. *That young Women, are to be sober, discreet, and obedient to their Husbands,* the *Apostle* thereby plainly implying, *That a Wives obedience, is a Wives discretion,* Then shall the *old Men* see *Visions,* and the *young Men,* (especially the married) dream *Dreams.*

And now I would gladly hear what sort of answer and interpretation, the *Governing-spirit Ladies* will make to the Question of our *blest Saviour,* Can the *Servant* be greater than his *Lord*? For surely *Wives* assuming *power,* cannot render them so over senseless, as to fancy he ask'd it as a Question of doubt, but spoke it as a thing of impossibility, that a *Servant* can be greater than his *Lord,* any more than a *Son* elder than his *Father.*

And now *Women* are about impossibilities, and vain dreams, methinks they ought to endeavour getting the *Philosophers stone,* for that would be very convenient to carry about in their *Breeches Pockets,* so that as they have now got the powerful *knack,* to change *Men* into *Women,* and their poor *Husbands Rentals* into *Shop-books,* so they may then by the vertue of the same *Elixir,* and the more powerful *Charms* of their own killing *beauty,* turn all *Metal* into *Gold,* as well as too many *Wives* now a days turn their *silly Husbands Lands and Woods* into rich *Gownes,* and *sne Coaches.* 'Twas the saying of a great *Roman,* (who I fancy Married a kind

a kind of an *English* humor'd Wife) that the Womens rich Gowns destroy'd more Men, than all the Enemies Arrows.

And now Reader, I am sure you must be tir'd as well as I am of this Subject of Womens Power, tho many Men are not of their subjection to it, and therefore I will now take leave of these great beauty adorers, for I cannot as they do, Dream with my Eyes open, nor can I spare them so much of my patience, as to wait for the *Chimera* issues of their Dreams, my design being only to write of, not to dwell on this Subject, and perhaps I have already not only writ more on it than I should, but sharper of it than I ought; for considering how generally, as well as powerfully Women now wear the *Breeches*, 'tis dangerous provoking them, especially having now in my mind the saying of a great Philosopher, *Those that consider little (as most Women do) are apt to be angry soon.*

And sure if wise Solomon in his days, when certainly the Women did not then pretend to half the power they now usurp, could prefer dwelling in a Wilderness, before living with an angry Woman, how cautious, nay fearful ought the writers of this subject to be in offending them, when their Anger is as fierce, as their power is great; and in some Women, their passionate revengeful humor suitable to both: Therefore if the Apostle thought he



had good reason to pray to be deliver'd from unreasonable Men, sure Men may also pray to be deliver'd from unreasonable Women.

And doubtless as it suits well with all the measures of true Reason, and good Policy, that those who Command, ought to be wiser than they who are to obey. And therefore Women ought not to use a Sovereignty over Mens Actions, whilst they are Subjects to their own Passions, and sure none can deny this Truth, that she who cannot Rule her self, is very unfit to Govern another.

But 'tis full time for me to begin to relinquish the argument of this dangerous Subject, having spent time enough in dabling my Pen on the brinks of it, for I did not dare venture farther, for fear I could not get out of it, so strong and fierce, is the stream of *female power*, that like an *unruly torrent* it runs so violent, that I am afraid instead of making it my business to diswade you against it; I fancy my securest way to defend my self is by a retreat from it; for I find I can only act on this Subject, as good *Pilots* do in great *Storms*, who tho they cannot shew their power to make the winds obey them, yet they may shew their skill, in making the best use to have them prosperous. And so in *Soldiership*, in extremity of danger, a well made *Retreat* is as commendable, as a great Victory obtain'd, and deserves to be Crown'd with *Laurel* as well as with the

*Trophies* of a great Conquest, and that Soldier, who has only Courage to make a bold Charge, and wants skill to make a good Retreat, has learn'd but half that belongs to the making of a great Captain: We read that *Homer the King of Poets*, praised *Achilles* for understanding the great Art, of knowing how, and when to run away conveniently: Adversity hath her *Virtues*, as well as Night has her *Stars*, and a great General may shew his good Conduct, in the midst of his bad fortune, and ill success. So I cannot but hope, that this my attempt in writing for the moderating Womens overruling power, was good, tho my success in accomplishing is but bad, and therefore I will give it over. And as Ships of War, fire Guns in their Retreat out of their Stern, so shall I here in the end of this Discourse, discharge in my Retreat this farther Consideration, That Wives over-governing Power runs its Course quite contrary to the overflowing streams of the *River Nilus*, for that by it produces great advantage where e'er it goes, without letting any know from whence it comes; but all Men, (and in a most especial manner the Married,) can tell by woful experience, that Womens overflowing power, in governing their Husbands, must and does produce sad effects, and shameful disorder where e're it goes.

And do but ask one of these mean-spirited Husbands, from whence his Wives governing

power comes, and he cannot deny, but it flows from the same spring his mean effeminate humor does, in allowing it, usurpation; and I am sure our father *Adam*, for being rul'd by his Wife, did justly receive, as well as truly deserve, Gods wrath, and punishment for it, and therefore surely all such mean, tame, pittiful govern'd Husbands, well deserve all sober Mens contempt and scorn as the just demerit of so shameful a condescension, which argues either their want of wit or manhood. And now the only hope of Reformation that appears to me on this particular is, that *Solomon* tells us, *there's a time for all things, a time to mourn, and a time to rejoyce*; so that there may be yet a time hereafter, for Wives to obey, as well as they have now to command, and when they will submit as they ought to their Husbands Government, then they will certainly deserve that praise and respect that is due to the honour of their Sex, and receive the admiration of all Mens just courtship and esteem: then may be presented on the Stage again, the old-fashion Play, so very long out of date, (as few Husbands remember it was ever Acted,) call'd *Rule a Wife, and have a Wife*, which indeed very few Husbands dare say they do, (I mean before their Wives,) and few would be believ'd if they really did, so rare and strange a thing is this thing call'd Wife obedience, as many believe 'tis only to be found at *John Tredeskins*, among his Collections of Antiquities. So

So that I must be forc'd to yeild that this rare Woman temper of Wife obedience is a thing only to be hoped, not expected, and therefore I will not vainly strive as *Xerxes* did, to level Mountains, nor with *Nero*, attempt to alter the Course of the Sea; but instead of endeavouring such impossibilities, I will now wisely resolve, neither to trouble my self, nor ruling Wives, to dissuade them to lessen their governing power, which I am sure, would be a Task as hard for me to obtain, as that of *Xerxes* or *Nero* was to perform; Womens governing power, being so long and deep rooted an usurpation, possessed by so many Wives, and yielded to by so many Husbands, as long Custom has made it a Disease in most Husbands minds, incident like the infirmities of sickness or age to their bodies, which commonly has such distempers that attend it, that they are worthy of all Mens pity, tho past all Mens cure: Therefore I will imitate your good Physicians, who esteem it unsafe to stir up those humors, they cannot possibly purge away, and upon this consideration I shall now muzzle my Pen, and sound a Retreat, esteeming it more wise and safe, to think much, rather than write more on this extensive and dangerous Subject.



THE THIRD  
DISCOURSE.

*Of the inconstancy of most young Ladies, especially that are cry'd up beauties, and the folly of any one that believes he is fully acquainted, and solely possessed of a vain Ladies heart, and can give good reasons for the various motions of her Love Changes.*

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**I** Cannot deny but that young Womens Company may be very advantageous, as well as agreeable to young Men, as being very useful to whet their wit, to Civilize their behaviour, and to Polish their Discourses; but yet they ought still to remember, that the Conversation of these vain young gay Ladies, is to be us'd but like Sawce to Meat, good to quicken the Stomack, but bad to make a Meal on, being to be taken like strong Cordials, not too much, nor too often, and therefore to make their visits so moderate, as not to keep longer in their Company than just to refresh and fit their minds for better employment, and by these

these means young Men may relish young Ladies Conversation with great gusto, and return to them with a no less vertuous than agreeable inclination.

But instead of observing these wise measures, most of our young Gallants, make Courting of handsom Women, not only their pastime, but their business, so as to waste all their Time, and use all their endeavors in the pursuit, and attempts of gaining every new handsom face they see, and if it be but new, it must be handsome and taking, if 'twere only for being new, on the modish account of sweet variety.

And truly most of our vain Ladies fall not at all short of them in the same act of Inconstancy, but are as extravagantly foolish, and as little real as they, and therefore if 'twere possible to perswade young Gallants and Ladies, but to allow themselves time seriously to consider this matter, I am apt to think first that Men would be asham'd of their folly to rely on the airy, fickle and inconstant humors of most of our vain modish Ladies, especially that are the cried up beauties, and these our fickle Ladies no less blush (I mean if their *Peeter* would give them leave,) at their indiscretion in receiving those high praises, and believing those great Complements, and often repeated Oaths, their young Gallants make them, when in real Truth, these Gallants are as much inconstant to their Mistresses as their  
Mistresses

Mistrisſes can be to them, and their perjured Vows of conſtancy on both ſides, weigh as little in themſelves, as the breath that ſpeaks them, which immediatly vaniſhes into meer Air, without ever making the leaſt return, their Tongues and Hearts being ſo great ſtrangers, as there's ſeldom any correſpondence between them; ſo that 'tis moſt certain that ſuch Men may very rationally extract out of Womens fickleneſs, this true Concluſion, that the more they conſide, either on Chance, Fortune, or handſom Womens Conſtancy, (which are all three now a days much alike,) the more folly as well as falſehood they entertain in their relyance and depending on them.

Sir *John Sucklin* was a perſon of great Wit and Parts, and not only highly eſteem'd of by the applauded witty Men, but by the handſom Ladies of his age, and was one who had made many Philoſophical Eſſays, on the wavering nature, and various windings of many of the Ladies humors, and inclinations, as far as an extraordinary Wit, a plentiful Fortune, a liberal Mind, an open Purſe, and a *Venus* heart, could carry him; and after having employ'd all theſe, with all the care and induſtry imaginable, he found moſt young Womens hearts, ſo volatile and inconſtant, and to come ſo far ſhort of real Truth, as nothing can be farther, which occaſion'd this noble *Knight-Errant*, to leave behind him in Print, this friendly

friendly Caution, that it might appear as publick, as young Womens inconstancy, or young Mens folly, who pretend to a perfect knowledge, and sole possession of a young beauties heart; *you that propound to your selves propriety in Love, know Womens hearts like straws do move, and that which you vainly think is Sympathy with you, is really but Love to Jet in general.*

Indeed the most experienc'd *Venus* Philosophers, and enlightned Inspectors into the humors of most Womens hearts, and affections, are apt to make as gross oversights, in their guesSES, and fancies of their making good Wives, or true Lovers, as the ablest Seamen do often commit mistakes in their sight at Sea, sometimes taking Land for Clouds, other times Clouds for Land.

Really the very best and most able Masters of Art, and most Critical Enquirers with their greatest observations, and pretences of knowledge as to the Motions of Ladies hearts, can only make such imperfect guesSES and speculations as Astronomers do of the Operation of the Stars, which is but by the great; they can give an account of the general order of Providence in their Stations and Motions, but can give no certain Rule, or true Measure to discern their Influences upon particular actions, or bodies, no more, than they can give a reason, (other than Gods Will,) why constant success attends this Mans undertakings, and a  
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continued ill fortune waits on another Mans endeavors, or why a wicked cursed Tyrant should live out his Natural Life prosperously among his abused Vassals, and our highly excellent, and truly pious Martyr King *Charles* the first, of ever Blessed Memory, should be barbarously Murder'd by his own free Subjects; which is a most clear and plain Lesson of instruction, not to Judg the true right of Causes, by the false light of successes, and therefore sober religious Men, freely own their ignorance as to the certain Causes, of the divers effects of Gods providence as to the event of things in this world; there being such an infinity of Causes that depend on one another, that good and wise Christians esteem it their best and safest way, to live in a state of Neutrality, as to a pretending knowledge, of the effects of Gods providence in the Issues either of his Mercies or Judgments.

And truly if our young Gallants were as wise as they ought to be, they would also live in a State of Neutrality, as to their Judgment of the motions of young Ladies fancies, and be satisfied with these general notions, that their minds, and inclinations are generally bent towards men, who are young, handsome, rich, witty, high born, well bred, and the like; but how to discern special Causes, for particular Occurrences, and to be able to tell the true reasons, and give the just measures, for Women

mens so often differing and varying in their Love fancies, is I believe beyond the power of Man to Judge; some Women esteeming the black before the fair, others the fair before the black, in which few agree; or this handsome Man before t'other, and sometimes an ugly Man before them both, Womens likings to Men, being like their mode of governing, who tho the power be still the same and certain, yet the manner of it is always changeable and inconstant.

I say in all these changes or roving of fancy, the most knowing, and experienc'd Lovers, can make at very best but imperfect Guesses, almost as very uncertain as Womens Constancy, or young Mens Love; which indeed is much of the nature of common Hay and Stubble, which a little spark lights, and a small time consumes; young Men being more inconstant in their addresses, than very beauty in its duration, most of our young Gallants Love, being not able to keep up to the same degree of Elevation, as the short space wherein their Mistrisses beauty does: In a word, I think the best Wit, and most knowing Lover, cannot say better of the nature of Womens Love, than what *S. Austin* said of the nature of the *Times*, *I fancy I know it, when no body bids me describe it, but find I am ignorant of it, when any does.*

Truly

Truly few of our vain Ladies, guide themselves in their Love choices by the clear Light, and true Rule of Reason, which occasions their being so often misled by the vain Love flashes of their present Airy fancy. And indeed when a young Mans alluring beauty, (or what else you please to call it,) attracts a young Womans sight, and thereby moves her fickle fancy, and inconstant likings, and so stamps a fierce, but hasty impression of Love on her tender slippery heart, which commonly makes the newest object, the richest prize, for indeed most of our modish Ladies Gallants are to them like the Fashions, where usually the last Comer, is best lik'd, and most us'd.

And the Jest of it is, that many of these changeable Ladies being so smitten, are apt to believe that this their last Love is the only true one, and that all their former Loves were but a kind of Mushroom Love, which sprung up in a Night as Mushrooms do, without any Root ; but that this their present Love is built on good reason, and true consideration, and therefore shall be like the Laws of the *Medes and Persians*, unalterable, being so deeply engraven in their marble hearts as 'tis never to be altered or worn out but by death, forgetting all the Changes they formerly made, and by the same Rule of Inconstancy they may hereafter make, according to the taking objects which new conversation may present, and that 'tis possible,

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if not probable, that their present passion of Love that is so newly kindled and fully lighted, may in some farther time be swallow'd up, and extinguished by a more inviting beauty, that may present more charming and agreeable; and 'tis most certain that the Love which possesses and inflames a young Ladies heart last, Eclipses all former fancies, as the Suns appearance darkens all other Lights, the Sun being to be seen by no other light but his own. In short, most Womens hearts, and Love vows of Constancy, are to be read but like strange Prophecies, which are to be understood, not by their Words, but by their Events.

Indeed most of our airy Ladies, are so volatile and fickle in their Amours, as not only their Eyes, hearts and inclinations, but their whole nature is so addicted to change and variety, as one might as easily fix Mercury, or make bristle Glass malleable, as to fix a young Womans humor, and love-fancy, so as not to break out into change and inconstancy, they being more fickle and changable, than the very Wind it self, for there are Trade Winds that blow still certainly one way all the Year, without ever altering from the same Point and Place; but a vain Ladies Constancy, is not certainly to be found at any time, or in any place, their Love-humors being like the *Camelions* Colours, whose property is to have no certain one. So that 'tis no wonder to find a young

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Woman that is inconstant, but a greater one to find one that is not; the Earth being not more variable in all her Properties, nor the Heaven in all its Influences, than most of the vain great beauties are in their Love-fancies; and sure if the Basis and ground-work of their whole Love-nature be sandy, the more Men foundation on their Constancy, (I mean only in point of Love) the more they expose themselves to their deceit, and consequently to creating their misery.

Therefore I am clearly of opinion, that as to Ladies Constancy, when the greatest Criticks have made their most studious Observations, and Essay'd their most subtil experiments, on all the points of Loves Compass, they must own their Ignorance touching the various ways and diversity of motions of Womens minds, since Love often works upon their Imaginations, and flies to their Hearts, as Blushes do to their Faces, which they can neither command their going, or hinder their coming, since they still go and come at their own rate; therefore I am fully of opinion, that the most able Artists, Naturalists, and *Venus* Philosophers with all their speculative Rules and Measures, ought to strike Sail, and yield to common practical experience, as to the Choices of young Womens several fancies in their Love-likings; and to grant that Mens best Logick will be to Argue, in most young  
Womens

Womens way of Arguing, 'Tis so, because 'tis so.

Since then the discovery of the Ebbing and Flowing of young Womens hearts and minds, are like that of the Sea, a wonderful Motion, expos'd to the publick view of all, but conceal'd from the true knowledge of any, for one may as rationally hope to find the Philosophers Stone, that turns all Metals into Gold, as to find the Art of turning all young Ladies Love-fancies so as to meet in one Centre of Constancy; which is as impossible as to be able to measure the Sea with your Span, or what's as feasible to fathom the depth of a young Womans inclinations, with the Plummer of your reason, their changable Love being as very far from true certainty, as almost the drop of Ink that writes this is from the Ocean: Therefore I shall end this Discourse with this serious Consideration, and Resolution, that since 'tis not in the power of Man to find it out, fairly to leave it as such, and hereafter only to wonder, at ones wondring, at my not being able to discover the various humors, and intricate windings of young Womens minds at all times; when few of them know their own at any time.

THE FOURTH  
DISCOURSE.

*Of Marriage, and Wives who usurp a governing Power over their Husbands, which is now so common, as it's become almost the general grievance of the Nation.*

There are of Wives, as of most other things, two sorts, the good and the bad; the good presents the Husband with much happiness, and great Content; and the bad creates as much misery and dissatisfaction: The first is a kind of Heaven, the second a sort of Hell upon Earth, for there can be no Purgatory seated in the mid-way between them, for out of Purgatory 'tis possible to be redeem'd for Mony, but from Marriage 'tis impossible to be ransom'd but by death. All I shall say of Purgatory is, that if there's such a Place, (which I cannot believe) tho it may be much visited, yet I fancy 'tis little inhabited, because such as have Mony may buy themselves out of it, and those that have none, are not worth keeping in it.

I shall here only name some of the main ingredients that go to make up the Composition of a real happy Marriage, to compleat which there must be on both sides, hearty love, and true liking; that so they may joyn their Hearts, as well as the Minister does their Hands, and as their Marriage Vow makes them tho two, but one Flesh; so it must make them both, to be but of one Mind, and one Concern, which is, to please one another; and to this good Consort of Humors, and Inclinations, there must be added a like degree of Age, and a suitable manner of breeding as well as an equality of Families and Fortunes, and all these Flowers are to be bound up into a sweet and well made Nosegay, by a fervent Zeal, and a holy love to Piety and Vertue, for without a mixture of these, the Married Couple, do but found their happiness on the Sand, and build all their hopes of Content, with untempered Mortar; for tho 'tis as true as common, that meer beauties do often breed great fondness, yet it can never create true Love; for beauty is but the slight fading varnish of the Face which soon wears off, but Vertue is the substantial lasting beauty of the Mind, and makes a handsom fine Lady, like the Kings Daughter, all glorious within, and preserves her Marriage Love in a sweet, and perfect Harmony, without which, it can have no duration, but must soon fade, and ravel out into change and inconstancy. D 3 And



And now I must tell you, I know not certainly where to direct you to find the great rarity of such a happy well match'd Couple; but this I know, that where e'er they are to be found about this Kingdom, 'tis a thousand pities that death should ever take them out of it because they are so very hard to be found in it.

And now I have nam'd some of the principal Ingredients, that are absolutely necessary to compleat a happy Marriage, I hope I shall not need here name any of those great Faults, and ill Humors, which go to the making up the Composition of a bad Wife, but shall refer you to the next Husband you meet, and know, who can certainly tell you by woful experience some of them that his Wife has, and the next you inquire after may tell you more, for every Husband can tell you more or less of his Wives faults; for there is no Husband but knows some, and 'tis well if she has not some more than he knows, so that I shall only need tell you here by whole-sail, that as many Figures joyn'd together make a great Sum, so many great Faults and cross peevish ill humors united in one Woman make an ill Wife.

Now if you would know the difference between such Husbands, who esteem themselves in their Wives very happy, and those that believe themselves to be made by them very miserable. Of the first kind, the Husband thinks, as good as his Wife is, that there cannot be a

Wife

Wife that has no fault, the other thinks that there can be no fault, but what his Wife has; so that the sum total of this difference is easily cast up in these few words, as to the belief that good, and bad Husbands have of their Wives faults, that all Wives have some, and some Wives have all.

But this truth, neither the good or bad Husband can deny, that tho there are as well bad as good successes in Mens choice of Wives, and Wives choice of Husbands, yet that does not at all lessen, or take from, the holy Institution of Marriage; which is pure and comfortable in it self, tho more are made miserable than happy by it, Marriage being a Sacred Order, not only as old as our father *Adam*, but almost as Nature her self, for it began with the World, and is not like to end but with it, and can truly boast, both of the greatest Antiquity for its Parent, and the first rank of Miracles for its honour; for Scripture tells us, *that the first Miracle our blessed Saviour did in Canaa was at a Wedding*, and we read in *Genesis*, *that God had no sooner finished Creating the World, but he presently acted a Miracle in it, by making a Marriage, for the perfection of which, he miraculously divided one body into two, and united two bodies into one.*

And in those blessed days of purity and innocency, before sin began to reign in the World, God the great Maker, and wise disposer of all things, thought one Husband sufficient for one

Wife, and one Wife for one Husband ; but in our wicked Age of excess, wantonness and inconstancy, there are crowds of Men and Women that list themselves into the holy Order of Matrimony, that will not confine themselves to those limited bounds which God himself gave, and they themselves vow'd to keep, but will rather choose those Adulterous courses God has forbid, than use those lawful means, which God has given by Marriage : But 'tis a sin descends to us from our father *Adam* ; to leave all the lawful fruit in the Garden, to eat of the forbidden Tree.

And now I fancy it need not pass for Rallery, or a meer Romantick expression, to say, 'Twould be now another Wedding Miracle in *England*, to see our vain modish Ladies as just and obedient to their Husbands as they ought to be, or indeed our foppish young Gallants, as kind, and constant to their Wives as they should be ; for we are got into such a Brood of ill Wives, and bad Husbands, they commonly hunt in Couples, one still helping to make the other as infamous as they can, and so as many of the bad Wives think one Husband too little, so many of these ill Husbands think one Wife too much.

Now if any wonder at this new fashion, of ranking in writing, the Wife before the Husband, I fancy they will not much admire at it, when I tell them my reason is, because 'tis the  
Wives

Wives right from the very beginning of the World, to take place and go before her Husband; but yet you ought not to be either pleas'd or proud of it, when I remember you in what manner you took place, and went before your Husband, which was only in sinful disobedience, a misery Wives ought ever to mourn for, but never to boast of, and which is so far from a new fashion, as we may read in Scripture 'tis as very old as the first Woman, and afforded *Adam* no other excuse for his being perswaded to disobedience by his Wife, than that *the Woman beguiled me, and I did eat.*

*S. Paul* orders the Wife to be subject to her Husband, and gives this reason for it, for first *Adam* was made, then *Eve*, to shew 'tis the Mans place to go first, and the Woman to follow the Man, and not the Man to follow the Woman, so that 'tis most clear by the Law of God, the Woman was made for the Man, and formed the weaker Vessel; but by our new *English* practice, it seems to pass for good currant modish doctrine, that the Man was created for the Woman, and made the weaker Vessel, else sure Men would never endure, that so very many Wives should rule their Husbands, and so very few Husbands should govern their Wives.

The subtil *Lawyers* that can talk the craftiest Men out of their mony; (some giving them indeed



deed only but talk for their mony) cannot yet talk their Wives into due obedience, many of them only laughing at their Husbands threats of bringing Writs of Errors, and Actions of Trespas, against them, for usurping and practising an unlawful governing power over them, which tho contrary to *Magna Charta*, and the fundamental Law of this Kingdom, and all other Laws whatsoever, except that of Custom, yet Lawyers Wives will keep this Law in full force, (I am sure they cannot say, and vertue) for they break all Laws, both divine and human by it.

Nor can our Ministers with all their Canonical gravity, Divine Rhetorick, and eloquent Preaching, teach their Wives so effectually S. *Pauls* lesson of submission as to make them pay them so much as the Tythe of obedience, for if they could, sure they would never suffer them to wear such rich Clothes, which is not only unsuitable to the gravity and decency of a *Clergy Mans Wife*, but very contradictory to the Apostle *Pauls* doctrine, who orders in general all Women, and sure Ministers Wives above all, not to adorn themselves with rich, but modest Apparel; nor can our great Merchants that Plow the Seas with their Ships to all Kingdoms of the World, in all their long Voyages, and great dealings, purchase any considerable quantity of this rare Commodity, call'd Wife obedience, and let me tell them, not for their comfort,

fort, if they can buy none of it abroad, they will hardly find any given them at home.

Nay I may yet go farther, and say, that the greatest, and most wise Statesmen with all their Politicks, cannot make their Wives pay them their just obedience, and I fancy their Husbands esteem it a great part of their wisdom and prudence not to expect it, because probably they in great wisdom do seriously reflect on the state of their *Adam*, who though he had all the Wit and Wisdom, Policy and Power, of the whole World solely and intirely in himself, yet when he got a Wife, or rather a Wife got him, we all know to his high shame, and our great misery, that she govern'd him, not he her; by which all Husbands may receive this small Consolation, that Wives usurping the Government, is no new Error, but as old almost as the Creation.

All I shall say to our Nobility and Gentry on this sad Subject of Wives governing their Husbands, is only to desire most of them to lay their hands on their Hearts, and then tell me if seeing is not believing. In truth one need go no farther than the Streets to meet many Men that do not govern their Wives, but one must travel the whole Kingdom over to meet a few that do.

We find that Springs which move only by the meer course of Nature, will mount no higher than their Heads, because 'tis against Nature

to do it, and if we may believe *S. Paul*, and he is no good Christian that does not, he tells us that the Husband is the head of the Wife, and if the Wife will but believe that, sure she cannot tell how to deny this, that *Africa* it self, can produce nothing more monstrous, than for a Woman to grow above her head, which being the uppermost part of the body, nothing can grow above it, for if it did, then it cannot be the uppermost part. Sure such silly beast-like Husbands, that do not know their own strength, and so allow the *Prerogative* power of Governing to be in the Wife, could never wonder at *Balaam's* Prodigy, that the *Beast* should be wiser than the *Rider*.

Certainly this sort of Wives that make it their Practice, and believe it their right, to exercise a Sovereignty over their Husbands, *never read, or forgot they ever did, S. Pauls doctrine, I suffer not the Woman to exercise an authority over the Man, God first Created Male, then Female, Gods command to the Wife to be subject to her Husband, was given as long ago as the first Woman, and really I believe, 'twill be as long hence as the last Wife, before it be strictly observ'd by a general concurrence of obedience; if one may judge of all Wives, by the common rate most now adays govern at, and what's worse, are like to do, for 'tis most certain, that long Custom makes a firm Law, and what Men are long acquainted with, they are usually well contented at.*

I have heard some of those high-spirited governing Wives, that have been so wickedly foolish, as to borrow some of the Devils sophistry to argue with, that because the Command of Wife obedience, is as old as the first Woman, and was then only given to one Woman, and that beyond the memory of any Man, that therefore it ought now to be out of the practice of all Women of our times, especially of such as are modish and witty, and consequently unfit for them to follow; but those that instead of paying obedience, make it their sport to railly at Gods Commands, let such expect that Gods Judgment without railery will follow them; be not deceived, God will not be mocked.

There was among this Hectoring brood of Women, a Parson's Wife that govern'd her Husband, as too many of them do, but could not govern her Tongue, as too many of them do not, who was so very senseless, as to ask in a jeering ranting manner a grave learned Minister that came to visit her Husband who was not very well, (and indeed no wonder, for his brains were never well in their right order since his Wife first govern'd him) what *S. Paul* could mean by that saying, *the Woman is the weaker Vessel*. To which the learned Minister gravely reply'd, *Truly Madam Governesse what the Apostle meant I know not, except your Sex was the weaker Vessel in discretion and Continency.*

Indeed



Indeed 'twere much better for these high-spirited governing Wives, to consider how they can exempt themselves of that great profaneness of daring to vie Miracles with the Almighty, as in effect all governing Wives do, for as God wrought a Miracle by taking the Woman out of the Man, so they would act another, by turning the Man into the Woman; but Miracles are ceased, and I wish for the public good that all governing Wives power were so too; but if that were, some may object, that then Miracles cannot be ceased, since that would be a new and great Miracle indeed.

Really if Wives were but as wise as they ought, then they would consider as they should do, and constantly observe, what they cannot but still truly believe, that 'tis Gods positive Command, that the Wife should be in subjection to her Husband.

And now if I should ask one of these ranting governing Wives, this Question, how she can pretend to exempt her self from the foul fact, of beheading her Husband; I really believe it would puzzle her to give a rational and satisfactory answer, for if the Apostle *S. Paul* by saying the Husband is the head of the Wife, means that the Husband as head has the governing power over the Wife, which certainly is the true sense of these words, and no Wife that has sense can deny it; then the Head signifying the Power, and the Power the Head, this conclusion

clusion must necessarily of course follow. That the Head being the Husbands governing Power, the Wife that cuts off the Husbands governing Power, cuts off the Husbands head, for if she will allow the first, she can hardly deny the latter; but I shall end this Discourse, and seriously conclude, that if Husbands were as wise as they ought, governing Wives would not be so numerous as they are, nor rule so much as they do; for then Men would never yield up so tamely and meanly their birthright of governing power, which the Law both of God and Man, (and I wish I could say the Law of Custom too,) has given the Husband over the Wife, that so it might become hereafter as strange in *England* to hear of a Wife that does govern her Husband, as now 'tis to hear of a Wife that does not; and that governing Wives may be as very scarce, as now they are very common, and as much out of fashion, as now they are in.

But methinks I hear some blaming me for being unreasonably severe, in writing against governing Wives in general, when I cannot but own that there are some governing Wives that for being so, are not blameable, but commendable, which are such prudent sober Women, as are Married to foolish sottish Men, who if their Wives did not govern, they could not govern themselves, and so their great noble Estates would soon be wasted, and moulder away

way into a foolish and shameful ruin; which by their Wives wise and discreet management is prevented. To which I answer, that there's no general Rule without an exception, and besides I do not design this Discourse against such governing Wives, as find their Husbands fools, but against those Wives as make their Husbands such meerly by their governing them; but if a Husband be so foolishly blind in his Judgment, as he cannot see the right way to order his Person, and Estate, 'tis a necessary duty and kindness of his Wife to govern him, and his fortune, and to lead him out of all the dangers and inconveniencies he might run both it, and himself into, and such a Wife deserves no more blame, for governing such a Husband, than a Servant does for leading about his Master, and shewing him the way, when he cannot see to find it being quite blind: But yet this governing power a Wife must perform with great respect and civility to her Husband, by lessening, and sheltering his weakness to all persons as much as possibly she can, that all may see, the occasion of her Governing is not an Act of Pride, but a Work of pure necessity; not her delight, but trouble. In a word, she must be very far from saying of her Husband, what a ranting Widow did; that had three Husbands and govern'd them all, and for her fourth she chose a meer Fool, and being ask'd her reason, she answer'd, she

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was grown Lazy, and therefore Married a Fool, to save her self the trouble of making him one.

## THE FIFTH DISCOURSE.

*Of the Inequality of many Marriages, and the Inconstancy of most Wives, that Men Marry for meer Beauty, or their Parents Match for bare Mony, with the sad end that usually attends such Matches.*

IN my Opinion, the great reason why disagreeing Marriages are now grown so Rife, is because unequal Matches are now become so common, most Parents making it more their business to Match well Portions and Estates, than Sons and Daughters; and so their Fortunes do but suit well, no matter if their Age, Humors, and Inclinations agree ill; many Parents making it more their concern to provide their Children plenty of Livelyhood, than contentedness of Living, being much more taken with a great Gingling of Guinnies, than with a sweet Consort of Vertues, or a good Pedigree of Gentility, which occasions some fine great Ladies to have rich Husbands, and

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fair Estates, and yet but bad Fortunes, to be well Married, and yet but ill Match'd, because they do not fancy, and so are not satisfied with one another.

Content and Happiness are Twins, born out of the same Womb, and spring out of the same Root, and none can be content with what he does not like, no more than discontented with what he does; for if he likes, he must be content, else he does not like. And 'tis also the same, where there's no Content, there can be no Love; for if he Loves he must be content with what he Loves, else he does not Love, and where there's no Content, and liking, there can hardly be any true Constancy, for none affect a Constancy to that they do not like, but their Mind is still in pursuit after that they do.

Most Parents in Marrying their Children, are sure to remember Solomon's saying, That *Mony answers all things*, but forget his meaning, that is purchasable with it; for several young Ladies that are richly Married, can tell by woful experience, that much Mony cannot still buy true Content, since many of them have little content, in the midst of their much Mony.

And farther, common experience, which is usually the effect of reason, assures us that it cannot purchase many things, as to give sight to the Blind, or Youth to the Aged, or what's equally impossible as both, to create Love against liking. 'Tis true indeed that Guinnes

do

do often tye a fast Matrimonial Knot, but of themselves can never tye a true Lovers one, since no Medicine that has not a mixture of the Sympathetick Powder, can operate kindly on young Womens minds; for as nothing can force a Mans belief contrary to his own reason, so nothing can compel a Womans Love against her own liking. 'Tis true one may be forced to obey at the rate of a Tyrants Will, but 'tis as true that none can believe or Love but proportionable to their own reason or fancy, which made the great Tyrant Nero say, *that he had much rather be fear'd, than lov'd*; because said he, *they that fear me, fear me after my rate, but those that love me, love me after their own.*

Indeed most of these Matches that are made up on the account of Interest, and not Love, their kindness is but like a Winters Sun, faint, and of no duration, and tho it may now and then in some time of the Day, shine bright and clear to the Eyes of Spectators, yet it carries no true heat with it, and therefore can never bring forth any ripe fruit of true content or satisfaction; and indeed no wonder since such a Winter Sun's Love can produce none of the pleasant Fruit of Marriage delights, when the Days civilities between them are very Faint, and the Night Embraces very Cold; for these Matches of meer Conveniency, that are made up only for great sums of Mony, or meer fanciful beauty, no sooner that the Wives beauty

is gone, or the Husbands Mony spent, (they being the only Cement, that fastned a common civility between them,) but the unbeautiful Wife appears disagreeable to her Husband. And the Monyless Husband, seems contemptible to the Wife, and both Husband and Wife, become not only unpleasing, but despicable the one to the other.

There was an *Italian* that writ a great Book in praise of good Wives, and concluded there was but one good Wife in all the world, and said that was enough for all, since every Husband that truly lov'd his Wife, might fancy 'twas her; but by the *Italians* leave, tho one good Wife that is trusted abroad, is more by one, than is in all *Italy*, for no Husband in that Jealous Country will venture on the desperate Experiment, of trusting his Wife abroad in Mens Company, to try whether she be virtuous or not, much of the Wives Chastity there depending on their Husbands strict watchfulness over them; the *Italians* esteeming it a most excellent and Sovereign Antidote to hinder their Wives from becoming kind to Men, is to prevent Mens being able to come to be kind to their Wives; for every *Italian* carries still about him, this old *English* Proverb, *That 'tis the occasion makes the Thief*, nay and observes it with more reverence and punctuality, than all the Proverbs of *Solomon* together.

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But in *England* there are many vertuous Wives, that go where they will, and keep what Mens company they please; but this great trust of free liberty, is not convenient to be extended to all Women, since sometimes Husbands by it, shew more confidence in their Wives, than discretion in themselves; and as too much liberty spoils some Wives, so a strict watchful Jealousie, makes many Wives worse than they would be, by believing them worse than they truly are; for doubtless many Husbands make their Wives dishonest by mistrusting them; for that breeds anger, and hatred, and they often create revenge, which some hot Womanish spirits will act upon any account, tho they themselves are the greatest sufferers by it.

I esteem Jealousie to be a most ridiculous folly, not only because Jealous Men, eagerly seek, what they highly dread to find; but if a Man had more Eyes than *Argos*, yet as *Argos* was, he may be deceiv'd by a simple Woman; for if a Woman will but put on the wickedness of the Devil, she will not fail being furnished with the subtilty of the Serpent.

And therefore it often happens, that great and wise Statesmen in the Politicks of Marriage, who trust in their Wives vertuous words, great modesty, and strict outward behaviour, may be deceiv'd; for unvertuous thoughts and designs are usually disguised and set out in



finer expressions, than plain honest dealing, and those commonly promise most, that mean to perform least, because they intend to pay in no other Coin than bare words and false assurances; and therefore none ought to wonder if great Politicians as well as others, are now and then deceiv'd in their Wives vertue. We read that *Sampson* with all his Strength, tho he could not be out-witted by all the *Philistines*, was over-reached by the subtilty of a Woman.

A strict seeming outward modesty, is not still an infallible sign of a Wives true inward Vertue; since 'tis not extraordinary to see a Woman look like a Saint before Company, and act like a Miss in private; for many handsome Women, that are of a good coming and melting nature, as soon as you are a little advanced into their acquaintance, and favour, yet seem very coy and severe at first entrance into it, imitating the Sea, which tho never so quiet and calm in the main, yet still casteth out rough waves near the shore.

And now, whatsoever men may think of me, I am sure my meaning is truly friendly, in advising them, that if they are in the happy state of freedom, not to yoke their Liberty in Marriage for meer Beauty, or bare Mony, but chiefly for vertue and goodness; for if you but consider seriously, you will find certainly, that the misery of an ill Wife, is no new affliction,  
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but as very an old one as Marriage, and almost Nature it self, witness *Adam* who lived in a continued innocency, and felicity whilst he remained in the Paradice of a single Life, but he was no sooner Married to *Eve*, but he was cast out of both.

And 'tis most certain, let your Love range over Court, Town and Country, nay ramble over the whole World, you can never choose a Wife, that is not her Daughter; and common experience tells us, that there are few Daughters that do not savour something of their Mothers humor, as well as nature, and therefore 'twill be highly prudential in this sad and weighty affair, to consider that Marrying a bad Wife, (as 'tis more than an even Lay one does,) has something in it of the nature of that sin, for which men can have no repentance or pardon, no more than they can have any ease, or relief for it while they live; for one may as well pretend to free Deaths Prisoners from the Grave, as unchain the Married during their Lives; no Skill of the greatest Artist, nor yet Argument of the most subtile *Socinian*, can ever evade or loose a Wedding Knot, it being of an extraordinary lasting Union, quite differing from all others, for Men can unbind all others whilst they live, but a Marriage Vow, can only be unbound by death it self.

And now I have given you this part of my Opinion as to meer Mony, or beauty Marri-

ages, which many Husbands may truly call in the Apostles phrase, (tho spoke in another and more divine sense,) *That Labor of Love*. I hope 'twill not appear an extraordinary fault, in saying it. *S. Paul* had foreseen the Romantic Gallantry, and extravagant folly, (I think, I might have said madness,) of many Marriages made now adays, which some of our vain inconsiderate Ladies are drawn into, by the common report, that such a Man has a great Estate, which suits well with her eager desire to keep a Coach and six Horses, (which she vainly fancies, will not only carry her thorow all the miseries of Marriage, but into the Tawring pastime of the Park) without the least concern of getting a good prudent sober religious Husband, many of them not valuing, or at least not considering other, than the keeping a splendid Retinue, and glittering train of Liveries, than wearing rich Clothes adorn'd with Gold, and costly Pearl, when there are a hundred more weighty concerns, that are more needful Appendencies to compleat a happy Marriage.

Really this is one of the chief Causes why such Marriage Love decays, and wears out with their Wedding Coaches, and is as often out of order as they, ('twere well if they still could be as easily mended) which none ought to wonder at, it being but natural for effects to follow their Causes.

Among

Among all the great and extravagant follies that are used in the inequalities of Marriages in our days, there's none appears to me more irrational and unnatural, than an old Mans Marrying a young Woman, which in my Opinion seems a Match fitter to make sport for others, than to raise joy to themselves; for an old Man is to his young Wifes Bed, but like juice of Orange to her Stomack; it may create in her an Appetite, but of it self can never satisfy it; such an old Man being not only unsuitable, undecent, but unwholesom too, being to her like a *March Sun*, which all the great Physitians concur in opinion, to be very unhealthful, as having only strength to exhale Humors, but wants force to dissolve them; so that such a Match is so great a folly, as I shall only here need name one shameful misery that commonly attends it, and indeed I need name I think no other, either to fortifie my opinion against it, or to set out ones misery for doing it, which is this, That an old Man that Marries a handsom young Woman, tho his Wife may be so vertuous as not to Cuckold him, yet the world is so wicked in its reports to Censure him, so as it will always; which minds me of a story of a Gentleman, whom both his Wife, and Neighbours agreed to proclaim the truth of his being a Cuckold, and she dying, he Married an old ugly rigid *Puritan*, that was so odiously deformed as he was satisfied,

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she wanted Power, and the world Charity enough to Cuckold him, for 'twas impossible there could be a spark of Love, or liking in the Case, and he did believe that this Wife would not only be a perfect Antidote against horns for the time to come, but a Remedy for what was past; but one of his Neighbours being of a contrary belief call'd him Cuckold, upon which he repaired to his learned Counsellor in the Law, to know if his present Wife being honest, (though his former was not so,) whether he was still a Cuckold, or not? to which his learned Lawyer gravely answered him, *That tho he was not one in pure strictness of Law, yet being once so, the Custom of the Country, was so civil as to give him the Title during his Life.*

And now I have given you my opinion, and told you the usual fate that attends old Mens Marrying young Women; next comes that of young Womens Marrying old Men, and tho they appear both alike foolish, yet there's great difference in their folly, for as by this sort of Matches, old Men glut themselves with much more of the Woman than their age wants; so young Wives (if vertuous) stint themselves with much less of the Husband than their Youth needs, and besides tho Marriage has the power tounite two Bodies into one Flesh, yet it wants that of uniting the two Fleshes into one temper or Constitution; for a young Wife that is in the Spring of her age, is  
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like the Sun in the Spring of the Year, it not only gets the ascendant every day higher and higher, but grows every day more strong and vigorous; but an old Husband, is like *Autumn*, whose strength goes only downward.

Therefore I fancy an old Man Marrying a handsom young Lady, has nothing to plead, but *Guilty*; but a young Lady for Marrying an old Man, may have some colourable excuse, to moderate the folly, and lessen the shame of such an unequal Match; for perhaps she'll tell you, she has heard a story, which if as true as strange is a rare one, *That the reason that Stags live so very long, is, that when they find themselves to decay, they swallow a live Serpent, and as it consumes in their body, they revive in their strength and Spirits.* So possibly a young Woman will say, *That she did not Marry an old Man for being rich in Tears, but Mony, and because she found her Fortune decaying, and almost quite decayed;* therefore she swallowed a Marriage with an old Man, as the Stag does a Serpent, in hopes that as her Husband consumes and dies in her bosom, so she may revive in her sprightly gay humor, and please herself with the delightful thoughts of the wealth he will leave her, and the ways she will Intrigue to spend it in the fanciful hopes she has, of suddenly gaining a young Husband suitable both to her Youth, and airy Inclinations.

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There is another sort of Women, but indeed their number is very small, who being not handsom in their own opinion, and therefore may be safely concluded very ugly in that of all others, who to supply the defects of nature and age, give out they are very rich, and that they hope will make amends for all, Gold being always young, handsom and taking, to all sorts of Men, and Ages, for *Mony answers all things*, and by these reports of their Wealth, tho often false, they decoy young Fops who have lost their Annuity at Play, or spent it in Debauchery, to Court them for their fame of having much Mony, and too eagerly press the Marrying them for it, Swearing that they Love their persons more than their Mony, valuing them a thousand times before it; and no wonder that they that swear so commonly for nothing, should now lye for much Mony; for in real truth they only put the Widow before the Mony, as we do in common speaking, the Box before the Jewels, which though first, is altogether inconsiderable to the latter, as only containing that Riches, which it self makes no part of.

And many of these old rich Widows are so doatingly senseless, that because their Mony Courters, swear they are handsom, they verily believe they are so, and credit others words before their own eyes, tho their spectacles are on, which renders some so sottishly impudent, as

to tell their Gallants, that tho their beauty is in the fall of the Leaf, yet Autumn can breed Lovers as well as the Spring does, when in truth, an old withered Autumn face, does but Chill the blood, and dispirit the vigour of the most active and resolute Courtier; and therefore a Spring beauty can only enflame the heart, and tho possibly a young Man may be sometimes foolishly taken with an old Womans great wit, good humor, or rather greater riches; yet 'tis, I think, impossible he can be really in Love with her deform'd face, person, or age, which must quench the fire of any amorous flames in a youthful or vigorous-heart.

Therefore I shall advise all such Women, to be so prudent as to yield to the seasons of Age, as they must to that of the Year, and not hope to turn Winter into Summer, or Autumn into Spring; but instead of striving for what's impossible, yield to what's reasonable, and submit to these true Measures, That Eighteen is the gay sprightly blossom age that a young Womans Life shines out in its brightest splendor and beauty: That Thirty is the stale year of a Maid, and the worst age of a Wife, (I mean that's an ill one,) because a Wife at Thirty is old enough to be ugly, and young enough to live long; but a Woman that is so far advanced in years as the frigid Zone of Sixty, ought in all reason to banish all vain Love thoughts, as to the youthful pleasures of this world,



world, and to fix them on the other, so as to live only in order to die, imitating the good old Woman named in the Gospel, *Luke 2. 37. Who kept in the Temple, who fasted and prayed to God night and day.*

Indeed it becomes old Women much better to frequent the Church with the good old Godly Matrons so renown'd for gravity and religion in former days, than to visit the Park or the Play, with their vain young Gallants, lest their old Dress, and Antick Faces, should make Men say, such a one is more fit to be a Spectacle, than a Spectator; wants good Mens Prayers, rather than young Mens Praises; and is more apt to create thoughts of Mortality, than to raise motions of Love; really I am of opinion that if 'twere possible to turn beauty into the same nature of content, that the little Kingdom of *England* would swarm now more with handsom Women, than the Country of *Palestine* did ever with fighting Men, of which Scripture makes mention of many hundred thousands, for than every ugly Woman, young or old, as thought her self handsom, (as most do,) must be really handsom only for think it, as well as all those that believe themselves Content must be Content, or else they could not believe themselves so; therefore all old, and ugly Women, that are not past all years of discretion, tho they are of beauty, should never strive for impossibilities

bilities, for youth will asſoon come to the aged, as beauty to the ugly; but ſince beauty will not come to content you, be you content without it, and ſtrive for that you may obtain, which is *the beauty of holineſſ*, which infinitely excels all others, it being much better to live well, than look ſo, and to have a good ſoul, than a fine face, that being earthly and ever fading, but a pure ſoul is heavenly, and never decays being everlaſting.

In ſhort, that Man who is ſo ſimple to Marry great Age for meer Mony, when that's ſpent, (and you know that Mony, like Love, cannot always laſt) all the uſe of conſolation I can think of, is to ſend for a Miniſter to give him ſome ſpiritual advice, of which he may perchance receive ſome to eaſe the trouble of his mind, but as to the bodily diſtemper or plague of his broken infirmity I am ſure there can be no remedy, but that of death; for indeed it may be firſt ſaid, of a young Mans Marrying an old ugly Woman, what the Apoſtle ſaid of a greater folly in another ſenſe, *he that doth ſo, offends againſt his own body*, and truly ſuch a one hath in my opinion, no other plea left him to excuſe his folly, than *Adam* had to excuſe his firſt Sin, *The Woman beguiled me*; I ſay in Caſes like this poſſibly *S. Paul* might have thought it equal, for ſo indeed it is, things rightly conſidered, for ſuch men to ſuffer, or rather indeed conquer the diſturbance  
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of a lustful burning, than endure the plague, and continual misery of an ill old ugly Wife, that can neither please the fancy, nor satisfy the appetite, and therefore coming to such a sad Marriage, is like coming to the age of fourscore, after which experience tells us, there's only Labour, Infirmary, and Sorrow, young Husbands, and old Wives, being but meer names, things of form, not use, only made to torment one another, Living in one House, but Lying in two Beds, for the old Wife would have what the young Husband will not give, and the old Wife cannot give what the young Husband would have; in short a bad Wife at Land, is like a Storm at Sea, which because a Man is so unhappy to be engaged in, and cannot be rid of it, must be suffer'd out with patience.

And so I have done with old Wives, for I am certain the Reader must be weary of them, as well as I am sure the Writer is, and therefore I will leave this extream of old Age, and treat on that of young beauty, and the folly of them, that Marry meerly for it, and here set you down in a few Lines, the common degrees, usual accesses, and woful events, of such hot, rash, hasty, meer beauty Marriages, as are now in fashion among many of our young Gallants, who choose Wives as the silly *Indians* do our Merchants Tynsel and Bawbles, who value their real worth only by their glittering show.

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The first steps and degrees of a young Gallants growing love and fancy to his Mistress are generally these; first he likes the Woman as we say in a Lump, or by whole-sale, then he admires her beauties apart, courts her person, loves her humor, thinks all she says is witty, and all she does is graceful and becoming, and all her actions agreeable and excellent, though possibly not one of them are so; for you must know that beauty in Love, is like Charity in Religion, *it covereth a multitude of faults*. Then he presents his heart, and she becomes the sole Mistress of it, and as his passion increases, so he fancies her beauty does, till at last he believes the scorching flames of her beauty, to be more insupportable than a Midsummers Sun, in its full meridian heat and strength; and therefore resolves to follow *S. Paul's* advice, *'Tis better to Marry than Burn*; but then pray take this Caution with you, *that tho of two evils, 'tis best to choose the least*, yet that argues neither to be good, (as indeed it was not, when *S. Paul* first spoke those words,) and in some sense may not be so now, yet however our fierce Lovers heart being all a fire, his mind thereby grows restless, and as very much out of order as his reason, (if a Man in Love has any,) for to say a passionate Lover that has lost his heart, and can yet keep his reason, is the greatest of follies, next to that of being so in Love.

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But since our Amorous Gallant is so furiously smitten, rather than not quench the Amorous scorching flames of his lustful passion, she resolving not to admit him to her Bed, in any other shape, than that of a Husband, not considering at all in his Vows of speedily Marrying her, possibly because she had tried anothers word before, and he broke it, and deceiv'd her, and therefore she resolv'd not to be cozened so a second time, by a second Tryal; but that Politick Lover, to enjoy the momentary delight of embracing her beauty, does with much desperateness, and little consideration, cast himself down that dangerous Precipice of Matrimony, and long liv'd trouble of a Wife; tho he buy her at the dearest rate of Purchasing, and it may be worse sort of fooling an ill Marriage, a very sad bottom to Insure the content and happiness of a Mans life upon, since he who only Trades to get the Merchandise of beauty, may become a sad looser tho he gets his whole Adventure, since such a sort of Matrimony does usually bring the Husband, and often the Wife, Springs of misery and inconveniencies, but seldom so much as any drops of the Oyl of pure gladness, and true satisfaction.

And indeed one of the great reasons why Men that Marry for mere beauty, are commonly so unhappy in their Choice, is, That as their Mistrisles beauty is but a mixture of  
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flashy and glaring colours, so is in a manner their reason ; for not considering, that beauty Love, is but like Gunpowder, which as it flames at the first Spark ; so it sets forth all its strength and fierceness at its first firing, and then soon expires into meer smoak and air.

The first falling in Love of an amorous Man, being just like the first surprize of Anger in a Cholerick Person, it runs on so violently, as it stays not to attend reason, nor consult discretion or conveniency, and so strips it self of true understanding, and therefore as soon as such a Husband has cloy'd his sensual Appetite, on that surfeiting Dish of a meer beauty Marriage, his stomach being used to feast on sweet variety, longs for other food, and then first Love grows indifferent, his passion soon cools, his eager fiery fancy grows quickly dull, and his mind suddenly changes ; so that he presently forms a new desire, or passion of love, and loaths his former beauty Companion, as the most irksom deformity ; and she whom he was so lately fond of, as the most pleasing Charm and Converse of his life, who was a kind of *Elixir salutis* to his very heart and soul, and the Center point where all the Lines of his happiness did meet ; She in whom he could find no discontent with, or content without ; She whose presence made a Village as agreeable as *London*, and her absence *London* as doleful as a Village. In short this very

She, whose Company he esteem'd his Heaven upon Earth; no sooner was the flower of her fair and youthful beauty worn off, but his fickle passion as soon decays and grows languid, and this late Soul of his soul, and Joy of his heart, turns to be the very clog and burden of his life, and from all Mistress, becomes all Wife; that is, she falls from the top of all admiration, to the depth of meer misery, and from an extraordinary charming delight, to an ordinary necessary evil, called a Wife.

And such Husbands commonly call such Wives, and so do Wives such Husbands, the Yoaks of Liberty, and the Stocks of Love; and all know that neither of them can be easie or pleasing in such a bondage, being an enemy, and destroyer of sweet variety, so that the Husbands love being decay'd with his Wives beauty, he grows weary of her, she of him, and both of one another.

And as to a young Mans Marrying an old ugly Wife, meerly for her Mony, all I shall need say of it is, that often such young Men fancy such Mony Wives, to be of the same Nature of Mony it self, whose vertue consists not in keeping of it, but in parting with it, and so commonly use such Wives accordingly; and thus this wild passionate Love or meer Mony Marriages, like wild-fire, soon devours and consumes it self in its own flame; and Torrent like, instead of refreshing, it destroys, and by  
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over-pressing too violently the course and streams of its Waters, soon Ebbs and runs it self dry.

Therefore that Man that will sell his sweet Liberty, and enslave himself into Matrimonial Chains, meerly to enjoy a Womans beauty; sure he does not know, or at least does not consider that still the richer the Metal, the heavier the Chain, and therefore though his Mistress be never so much the admired object of his present fancy, and that I should allow her golden Chains to weigh as long light on his mind, as she continues beautiful to his sight, yet to bind himself to her in a Matrimonial Vow only on the account of her beauty, till death them depart, on assurance that he shall feast on her beauty as long as he lives, is just such a kind of folly, as if a young Man that were a great Lover of Sweet-meats, should leave all his business, imployments, and pastimes to bind himself an Apprentice for seven Years to a Confectioner, meerly on the account, and assurance, that during that time he should every day feast himself on them, when very common Experience is able to inform him, though his confidence be never so great, his inclinations never so eager, and his stomach never so good, yet 'tis natural for him to eat so fiercely at first falling on, that like a greedy *Hawk*, he soon over-gorges himself with his own Prey; and after having taken a full draught of that



sensual delight, seeing them continually exposed to his sight, and prostrate to his will, he comes to hate them as much after enjoyment, as he courted them before; for though the Fire of Love still burns for enjoyment, yet enjoyment still quenches, (if not extinguishes) the fire of Love, and he grows in a little time so cloy'd, as he wants not only appetite to eat them, but almost patience to see them.

Then when tis too late, he accuses the unreasonableness of his prefancied delight, on which he built his confidence of a lasting pleasure, and allows it to be not only a great folly, but sin against reason, in any Man to believe, that his sensitive nature ought to be gratified, when it proposes only a bare satisfaction to the Appetite, and cannot secure any durable happiness or content to the reason and judgment of mankind.

And this is really the cause, why so many of our young Gallants now adays make Marriage a kind of Paradox in Love; for one of these to obtain the Woman he is in Love with, turns his Mistress into a Wife, and then tis two to one, in a little time, to get rid of his late beautiful Mistress, being shrunk into the shape of a meer Domestick Wife, he parts for ever with his late Mistress, to get free from his present Wife; and note that tho many Mistresses turn to Wives, yet no Wives ever turn to Mistresses; Wife and Mistress being of the same differing

fering nature as Water and Wine, 'tis common to drink Wine with Water, but of Water to make Wine to Drink, was never done but once, and that by the first Miracle of our Saviour; so that in effect they did but seemingly agree, really to fall out, piece together, to fall asunder, and Married to get rid of one anothers Company.

And 'tis some of these unfortunate disagreeing Husbands, that says the Translator of S. Pauls Epistles, hath left out the word, *well*, in one of them, for where the Apostle says, *He that gives in Marriage does well*, it should have been, *He that gives well in Marriage does well*, for all know there are more bad Wives, than good; and sure all believe, that S. Paul was too wise to write or think, that any Man could do well in Marrying ill; so that I am of opinion, the sum of the Apostles meaning by saying, *He that Marries well does well*, but *he that abstains from Marriage does better*, has some reference to that good plain English saying, *That next to no Wife, a good Wife is best*, which occasions my pitying the many Husbands that have bad Wives, and the many Wives that have ill Husbands, and to wish those few, that fancy they have good ones, as truly content on their Marriages, as I am in my Resolution of never Marrying; and I am sure none can deny, but that I have this advantage by the Bargain, that 'tis impossible for me to meet a bad

Wife that does not Marry, but 'tis very possible, and common for him that does.

## T H E   S I X T H D I S C O U R S E.

*Against Maids Marrying for meer Love, or  
only to please their Parents Inclinations,  
tho quite contrary to their own.*

**I** Am against Maids Marrying for meer Love; because they that Marry for meer Love, Marry in a manner for meer fancy, and so to feast their sensual appetite on what they then like, they often starve the body of what it will hereafter need; for tho your fancy may tell you that beauty great store makes Love a feast, yet truth can tell you 'tis too slender a Diet to make a livelyhood on; therefore in my poor opinion, 'twould be a much wiser course for Maids to make up their Marriages with a good share, and large proportion of interest and conveniency, to mix with their Love-liking, and present fancy, for the true and durable content of Marriage is so founded on these two great Pillars, that without them Marriage content can never flourish much or last long; for a  
good

good sufficient Estate of Land is as necessary to buy rich Clothes, and maintain a handfom plentiful way of Living, as the Foundation under the Ground, is to support the fine Rooms above it.

Beauty is a fine Flower, but it must soon fade, and a young Womans Love fancy, may often change, but can never long hold, but a good Estate may continue longer than you can love or live, and last after you are dead, to your Childrens Children to the worlds end; but a meer naked Love-match, is at very most, but a Tenant for Life, and usually not near so long; a good Estate can keep you in sickness, and in health; but a Love fastned on meer beauty or fancy, never can, for such a fancy Love still fadeth away with the beauty that occasions it, since assoon as the flower of beauty begins to wither at the top, the admirers Love begins to die at the root.

Yet indeed I cannot think it very strange, that young Maids should be deluded with the delightful thoughts of pleasing and satisfying their present beloved fancy, of enjoying the Person of their inclinations, since in most young Maids, their fancy, makes their Reason, and not their Reason governs their Fancy, and therefore 'tis not to be wonder'd that they should esteem it reasonable, that there is great happiness, and that there will be long content, in such meer and bare love Marriages, because  
they



they never tried the sad experiment of such a rash hasty Marriage, and therefore their want of experience, may well serve for some kind of excuse, to moderate their want of Consideration, but after a dear bought Tryal, too many of them find by woful experience, that a Marriage Love built on bare beauty, or meer fancy, (which are much alike) can never stem the Tyde of the troubles of disappointments, and inconveniences, (the usual Issue of want,) that commonly attend such hot and hasty Love-Marriages, since they cannot fancy so well of it, as they will find ill in it, yet there's so great a Charm in this thing call'd a Husband, Maids representing the Man as they would have him, without considering what he really is, as poor silly Maids dance about him as merrily, as they do a *Maypole* on a Summers-day, and one Sisters sad and unhappy Marriage will not serve the other for a Caution and Warning against it, because she fancies her wit is quicker, her humor better, her beauty greater, and her person more taking, so easily young Maids believe what they desire, and therefore doubts not, but her Fate will be kinder, and her Husband better, than her Sisters; but 'tis more than an even Lay, she will soon after her Marriage, experimentally find, she had more faith in believing her good fortune, than she had reason for depending on it, since she had on that account more danger to fear, than hap-

happinefs to hope for, or at leaft to rely on.

Thus fuch Marriages, are to moft young Maids, like the forbidden Tree in the midft of Paradife, pleafant to the Amorous Eye, and therefore they will be tafting of it, tho they are almoft fure to be ever after miferable by it, by their abandoning, and ever after lofing their great Virgin prerogative, the *Apoftle Paul* afcribes them, of being exempt from the troubles of pleafing their Husbands, and being in fubjection to them.

And fure none that's Mafter of common reafon, can deny but a Virgins life is much happier, becaufe more innocent than any other, and as 'tis much nearer the bleffed ftate of Innocency, in this World, fo alfo 'tis much more fecure as to the felicity of the next, efpecially in this one particular, That 'tis much eafier for a Virgin to keep her felf vertuously Chaft, than either a Married Woman, or Widow ; becaufe both natural reafon, and common experience teaches us this plain Philofophy, that 'tis much harder to abftain from a pleafure one has often tafted, than 'tis to live without a delight one has never enjoy'd, it being fuch a certainty as none can deny, that 'tis lefs difficult to keep ripe Fruit that's fair and found, and was never touch'd, than 'tis to keep any fuch after they have been fo,

Therefore

Therefore in a word, you Virgins that are so much in the State of happy freedom, as not to be yoked in such a sort of Marriage, and to the pinching troubles of want, (for fancy can only feed the mind, not the body) and possibly to the sottish humors and impertinent follies of a jealous Husband, for want is apt still to create jealousy. I say if you Virgins truly desire to continue in your freedom and happy Life, never allow Men to become your Masters, by swearing they are your humble servants, and by calling you their Queens, make you their Subjects, for by Marriage you make your Servant your Master, and from being Mistress of your self, you become little better than a Slave to your Husband.

Therefore as an Antidote against this misery, I shall advise all young Virgins to carry still this *Memorandum* in their minds, That tho beauty is still taking, yet 'tis never lasting; sweet, but frail, and that all Husbands love Sovereignty much, but few own beauty long, especially in the domestick face of a Wife.

And because 'tis great pity these sort of unhappy Marrying Maids, should have no companions to solace them in their sad penitential state of Mourning, give me leave to introduce some Married Women into their dismal Society; for as many Maids make themselves miserable by Marrying for meer Love, so many are also made unfortunate in Marrying meerly to  
please

please their Parents, not at all to satisfy themselves; for really most Parents make it more their concern to match Fortunes than Children, or to suit inclinations or ages, when 'tis but a kind of Reversing Nature it self, it being as feasible to unite two contraries, and make Fire and Water agree, and *May* and *January* meet, as by the Magick of Matrimony to make a very old Man, and a very young Woman to be but one flesh and temper; for youthful beauty to the mind, is as cold old Age to the body; Heat penetrates the pores of the body easily, because they expatiate themselves to receive it, but when Cold approaches and attacks it, presently it closes, as being contrary and averse to it.

Yet many Parents think to deal with their Childrens Marriages, as they do with their Fruit-Trees, and think they can Graft humors and inclinations between Husband and Wife, as they Graft different kinds of Fruits on one another, and by their Grafting and binding them together, they make their differing Natures to become but one by Marriage, but upon serious Consideration, which does not always attend Marriage; they will soon find, that the Minister can only joyn their hands, but 'tis the free-will offering of the heart, that can only unite and Graft their affections together, and this free-will offering is to be led by Love, not drawn by the Cords of Wedlock, for the

Will



Will is a free faculty, and consequently cannot be forcibly determin'd to any act, but yet is capable of admitting perswasions, and inducements, and so may be by them inclin'd, but without them cannot be forced.

And therefore tho Maids ought not to Marry without their Parents consent, yet they ought not to be compell'd against their own; 'Tis true indeed that large Estates can produce a plenty of Livelyhood, but 'tis as true, that Content only can produce happy Living, for Content and Riches prove often to be no a kin to one another; but Content and Happiness are Twins, and ever inseparable friends, and like Water and Ice, one still makes the other.

Content is certainly the greatest worldly happiness, for it makes the poor Rich with it, and the Rich poor without it, and very common experience tells us that many poor Men are made happy by their unrich Wives, and many wealthy heiresses are made miserable and unfortunate by their rich Husbands, for 'tis not much but enough that satisfies, and the Weekly Bills of Mortality inform us, that more die with Surfeits, than starve with Hunger, the true Measures of Contentment not consisting in quantity, but quality, for many have much that have not enough, and many have enough that have not much; some young Women being compos'd of such distemper'd Hidropick feverish humors, as there's no quenching the  
Thirst

Thirst of their hot ambitious desires; others are so temperately minded, and healthfully wise, as a moderate and indifferent kind of condition satisfies them, and those are happy in such a moderation to a high degree; Content being the Throne of happiness, the very top of our ambition, and the end and accomplishment of all our desires, the sole want of which, is like that of wanting health, which is sufficient to unpleasure all our other enjoyments, in a word, Content is of such an obliging generous Nature, and of so universal value, as it furnisheth us with every thing, that either our real necessity wants, or our vain desires fancy.

And as Content is thus pleasing, so discontent is little less unpleasing, and therefore I cannot but highly blame and Censure such Tyranical ill natur'd Parents, as because they like such a Man's fortune, therefore they will make their Child Marry such a ones person, tho' tis as odious to her sight, as pleasing to her fathers Covetous humor, and so to satisfy his will, must force her inclinations to Marry him, tho' utterly against her own. Indeed 'tis such kind of forc'd Marriages that drives young Women into a double evil, and that of the worst sort too, being those of Perjury, and Treachery; for how can you make it less than Perjury, in a young Woman, to make a solemn Vow in the face of the Congregation to Love that Man her whole Life, whom she knows she cannot Love

a piece

a piece of a day, nay not so much as that very time of her Life, she is vowing to Love him, till death them depart.

And surely there is no less Treachery in such a Marriage Vow, that must be a kin to that black one of Judas, *who under pretence to kiss his Lord and Master, brought a band of Soldiers to seize him*, so averse forced Marriages under pretence of long continuing friendship and kindness, by shaking hands, but not joyn-ing hearts, do often bring Bands of discontents and miseries to each others Lives, and Liberties.

Therefore to conclude this Discourse, my opinion is that Parents may choose their Daughters wealthy Husbands to live with, but 'tis only themselves that can chuse Husbands to be delighted in, and therefore those Maids do well that Marry with their Parents liking, and they do ill, that Marry against their own.

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THE

# THE SEVENTH DISCOURSE.

*Against Widows Marrying.*

**W**HEN I consider truly, and reflect seriously, how many Widows have made themselves miserable by Marriage, and how few make themselves happy by Marrying, methinks it should be now as needless a Task to dissuade such from Marrying, as to advise them not to eat again of that Dish they came just from surfeiting on; for sure she that makes herself unhappy by a second Marriage, deserves as much her own misery, and merits as little others pity, as the Man that steals again after having been burnt in the hand, does the Gallows; for a repeated fault is a twofold Crime, and deserves a double punishment.

I know I need not mind the Reader of the old and common fable, of two Women that went as soon as they died, to *S. Peter* to get admittance into *Paradise*; the first assured him, that her Husband was such a devilish wicked ill natured Man, that he made her life a kind of Hell on Earth, upon which account *S. Peter*

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thought



thought it reasonable, that since she had suffer'd a Hell in this World, she should not endure another in the next, and so admitted her into *Paradise*.

The other Woman observing this, thought she had a double Key and Ticket, for she was not only tormented with one, but two bad wicked cross-grain'd Husbands, which render'd her life most miserable: but *S. Peter* answer'd her, that since she was so very simple as not to think one bad Husband enough, but she must have two, he bid her be gone, for *Paradise* was no place for fools; indeed that Widow must be extravagantly foolish, and unreasonable, that did not think the misery of one base Husband sufficient, but she must try the experiment of a second.

I confess, I cannot at all agree in opinion with that Writer who says, a Woman is but an imperfect Creature whilst she is without a Husband; but had he said a Widow was not come to her full perfection of misery 'till she had one; I fancy he had given a truer Character, and taken a more just measure of most Widows lives that Marry, since common experience, may assure all Wives and Widows, that there are generally ten bad Husbands for one good one, and I believe there are few Widows in our age, that are so perfect Disciples of *Seneca's* wisdom, as to extract satisfaction out of misery, it being an Apostolical vertue to be satisfied, and con-

contented in, whatsoever condition it pleaseth God to place one to.

But I am rather of the belief, that a young beautiful Widow, that leads a strict vertuous unmarried life, leads a kind of Miraculous one, in as much as she being born a Subject to the Law of Nature, and to the Lustful frailties of it, having not only tasted, but probably delighted in them, and yet can contain her self so in the bounds of such a vertue and pious Mortification, as to be so much Mistress of her self, and of her own youthful temper, and inclinations, as to resist the pressing temptations of young handsom Men with an unmoveable vertuous constancy; such young Widows do really live in this world, as the *Papists* say the *Nuns* do in their *Nunneries*, *That they live in the flesh, as if they had no bodies.*

And sure since it cannot be denied, but a vertue that overcomes the highest difficulties, fiercest inclinations, and most youthful passions, must needs excel all others; then it cannot be in the least doubted, but that a young handsom Widow that leads a retir'd, strict and unmarried life, must needs in that kind surpass all other Women, because she practises more the vertue of continence than any of them can, I mean as to the outward mark of our knowledge, since a Widow that lives in a true conformity to such a strict pious life resembles most, and approaches closest to the heavenly

one, which must needs be the best as coming nearest to perfection, for she declines the natural commerce of the body, to enjoy the better and Spiritual Contemplation of the Soul. And 'tis most certain the more Women keep their thoughts and desires from worldly delights and vanities, the more their minds will be fortified against them, and the more ready they'll be to embrace true felicity.

We read in Scripture that the Womans subjection to the Man, was laid on her as a penance and punishment for her disobedience to her God. Truly most of the young Married Sparks of our Age, are very active in observing Gods pleasure herein, yet not at all on the account of the Almighty's design, but the worlds practice, which is for such Sparks to make Marriage a punishment to the Woman, as much as they can, that is as much as some Wives will; for *serve, honour, and obey*, are grown but words of course, which all Women must repeat after the Minister at Marriage, but few will perform after they are Married, and their promise of obedience till death them do part, is seldom in their thoughts as long as they live.

Indeed I have known some young handsome Widows, who have lov'd their own Reputation and their Husbands Memory, so much as to continue some years in a strict deep Mourning, as well in their Life as Dress. And I have also known other Widows, of the wild  
brisk

brisk *London* brood, that have not so much Complemented their Husbands death, as to hold out one year a Widows Life, tho contrary to the Custom of the Country, and the common Rules of decency and civility.

And as shewing so little a concern for a Husband is very unbecoming, and highly immodest, not to speak worse; so on the other hand overmuch grief and despair, are both imprudent, and irreligious.

But I need not speak much of this overabundant Mourning for a Husband, since 'tis a distemper of mind, very few Widows of our age are inclin'd too, and therefore not in danger of being infected with; for most Widows can tell us that they are so well read in the brave *Roman* Story, who though they had no other bounds to their aspiring hopes, than the Conquest of the whole world, yet they still placed their glory and praise, as much in suffering well, as in doing so, saying, *as they ought not to be overmuch exalted by prosperity, so they ought not to be too much depressed or cast down by adversity*, but to observe the *Golden Rule* of Mediocrity in both Cases, and therefore 'tis not ill Wife-like, but brave *Roman* like, to suffer all losses with Courage and Patience.

And 'tis from these Considerations that many of our fine young gay brisk Widows say, *They esteem more the Philosophers Wit, than his Wisdom*, who being in great affliction, and



weeping most bitterly for the death of his Wife, one of his friends told him, his crying, could do neither him, nor her any good; Therefore said the Philosopher I Cry.

But this is a kind of doleful Logick, that suits ill with the sprightly gaiety of our fine young Widows, and therefore it must be needless as well as troublesom to mind them of it, it being a very unmodish doctrin, to preach to such young Widows, that because their Husbands are out of the world, therefore they ought to live as if they were not in it, and bury themselves alive in a strict solitary retirement, which they will tell you savours more of great folly, than true wisdom; since no Woman by her Matrimonial Vow, is engaged to Love her Husband longer than till death them do part; and indeed as Wives now go, I think 'tis very extraordinary to meet one that truly loves her Husband half so long. In a word, she that gives her Husband a more lasting Love than she promised, is generously kind, but she that pays him as much as she engaged for, is truly just.

Next 'tis most certain that all extreams are bad, and therefore Widows ought to avoid them on both sides; either by shewing too little a Concern, or too violent a Grief, for their Husbands death; I know I need not travel your thoughts so far as the *East-Indies*, to shew you the barbarous examples of Womens love to  
their

their dead Husbands bodies, by sacrificing themselves to the Devil, by burning themselves alive, soon after their Husbands death; we have examples enough in the History of our Neighbouring Princes, of their Wives barbarous Cruelty committed against their own Lives, for their Husbands loss of theirs; (but then do not mistake me, so as to think, I believe there are any such kind of fond foolish Wives in our age,) as *Adymond* Queen of *Sweedland*, who, when she heard her Husband was kill'd by the *Danes*, said she would soon follow him, and presently stabb'd her self. I might name you many more of this bloody Nature, but surely such kind of Tragical examples are to be look'd upon, but as the vile and wicked effects of madness or a devilish despair, and not at all the motions of a pious vertuous love, since good Wives may shew their kindness, without shedding their blood, and may mourn heartily, without dying Cruelly; for such unnatural deaths utterly destroy that great Christian vertue, of well regulating their passions.

And certainly no Widow stands more engaged to her Husbands memory, either by the Laws of outward Civility and good manners, or by the inward effects of true love and real esteem, than to observe those kinds of measures, and degrees of mourning for their Husbands, which are usual according to the rules

of custom and decency, which is to live a strict religious and unmarried life, for some considerable time, or longer as some Women do; and among those many who continue so to the end of their days, and so are Widows indeed according to *S. Pauls* phrase, and so deserve his character of honour. And among those I cannot omit a just commendation of the three most Excellent vertuous Ladies, and kind Sisters, who live together near *London*, I need not name them, because I am sure, there are not three Widow Sisters of their high Quality, great Vertue, and clear Reputation, that live together in all *England*; for which as they have the just admiration and praises of all true Lovers of Vertue; so I wish all Widows would strive to imitate their religious example, that so like them, they might enjoy comfort of true devotion and felicity upon earth, as an earnest of more blessed comforts and happiness they do expect in the other World.

And who by leading such a constant religious, and unmarried Life, the world must plainly see, that such Widows have no particular fondness for any Man in the world, since their dear Husbands are out of it, and that they do still shew a constant affection, real esteem and memory of their Husbands vertues and reputation; and by a particular kindness continued to all their Husbands Relations and Friends, as much as if they had been now actually living,  
and

and could be made sensible of the effects of their good or ill nature towards them. I say such a vertuous and discreet carriage in Widows is a most clear demonstration that Loves do not expire with their Husbands Lives; and certainly such an affection must be more real, and less byassed, as to all appearances, than the love of any living Wife can possible be; since that may only look counterfeit, and be disguised, by wearing a Mask of self-interest, or design rather than of true affection or value, and may be reckoned on the account, of living in good esteem or reputation as to the world, or be counterfeited for an outward seeming kindness to her Husband, tho she has no real inward one, in order to live at peace and quiet at home, both for her Childrens good, and for her own and families ease.

But a Widow that continues (as I have said) consonant kindness to her Husbands memory and Relations, and lives in the state of a private and religious widowhood; such a one can expect no return, or hope for any praise or advantage, but from the just commendation of her vertue while she lives, or indeed the more certain comfort and assurance of her eternal happiness, when she comes to die.

But mortifying Discourses of this nature, I am sure must be far from making any agreeable musick to the fine young Widows, but it may be found harsh, and unpleasant, as well as  
useless



useless and unliking; many of the fine gay young Widows, making the day of their Husbands death, the joyful Birthday of their own freedom.

And there are few of these brisk witty sort of *Widows* that are not so great *Philosophers* in the Politicks of Marriage, and so perfectly read in all parts of *Scripture* tending to that point, as to be wisely able to extract out of it, the vertue of *Patience*, and to possess it in so high a degree, and great measure, as to be able to raise to themselves satisfactory Arguments, of all sizes, degrees, and qualities whatsoever, to arm themselves against the loss of a Husband of any kind; be he good or bad, poor or rich, so as to render his death at least easie, if not pleasing, by arguing and reasoning with themselves after this manner:

If my Husband was good and vertuous, and made a holy end, suitable to his religious life, sure I ought not to mourn for it, but rejoyce at it, that he is gone to Heaven, and that I have in a manner half my self there beforehand; and therefore it must argue want of Charity, kindness and good nature to lament and mourn for his happiness, in living and dying so well.

If my Husband was wicked, lewd, and prophane, I have a double reason to rejoyce for his death; first, that the world is rid of so bad a Man, and I of so ill a Husband, and am

no more oblig'd to lie every night, with so much wickedness in my bosom, and that we are now no more one flesh, who were so far from being of one mind, and humor; and I have also this second means of extracting this heavenly advantage by it, that having experimented the slavish misery of serving the Creature, I am now, or at least ought to be, the more ready and willing to dedicate all my remnant of Life, only to the service of my Creator, whose service is still perfect freedom, and everlasting felicity.

If my Husband was poor and needy, I have reason to be glad he is intirely delivered from the great misery of want, and that his poverty is dead and buried with him, for none ever feels want in the Grave.

But if my Husband died Rich, I have great reason to rejoyce that he has left me so, and has given me by his death, what he denied me all his life, the incontrollable Treasure of his Wealth; and that I have now the range of the whole Kingdom, to ramble over, and spend it after what kind of manner, and with what sort of Company, as I fancy most, and love best; and by being a Widow I am become the perfect Empress of my own Will, instead of being confin'd at home a Subject to my Husbands, and sure none can relish with more gusto, the ease and liberty, and the many pleasures of freedom, than she that's newly de-

deliver'd from the bondage of a Marriage confinement, and therefore what *Seneca* said of Vertue, *that there's no Passion, or Affliction in the World, that Vertue has not a Remedy for* :

The same may be said in reference to most young Widows love to their Husbands, let their passionate kindness for them be seemingly never so great, whilst they live, yet they will be sure to find Remedies for their overmuch mourning for their death.

And therefore I shall advise Husbands never to Antidate their trouble, by fearing that their death will produce a long sadness in their Wives, at the common rate Marriage-Love now goes, there's no great fear of it; since in most Wives their good Jointure-Rents, outweigh their Love-sighs, or at least Counterpoise all their formal Mourning; for there is really, so little pure Love in many of our Marriages now adays, as Husband and Wives Love, is but of the same nature of that of great Sovereign Princes, whose Love is but meer Interest; and a Husbands death to many of our Wives, is become as Repentance for Sin, which cannot come so soon or late, but it still brings Comfort with it.

And now lest you may take my speaking against Widows Marrying, to be but a kind of raillying Discourse, fit only to entertain, but not to convince; and that my reasons against Widows Marrying are but meer Romantiick, pleasant

pleasant to be read, but needless to be believ'd; I will wave my own weak reasonings, and quote you some *Scripture* ones, that seem not to favour Widows Marrying, but rather the contrary, to continue as they are, and for their encouragement to it, propounds to them great advantages by it, which are these, The first is out of the *Old Testament*, Lev. 22. 13. *If a Priests Daughter be Married, she must not eat of the Offerings of holy Things, but if the Priests Daughter be a Widow, she may eat as in her Youth*, that is, as if she had been never Married and was a Maid, which was a privilege Women had by living Widows under the *Mosaick Law*, and which would not have it seems been granted, had she been made unclean by a second Marriage.

And *S. Paul* speaking of the happiness and advantages Virgins have over Married Women, gives this as one of his principal reasons, that they live free and exempt from the cares of observing and pleasing their Husbands, and being in subjection to them. And sure Widows enjoy at least as much, if not more, on this account than Virgins can; for doubtless it must be a far greater degree of pleasure, and satisfaction to those that have cast off the Yoke of an ill Marriage, than it can be to those that never wore it; as a sick Man that recovers his health must needs enjoy more pleasure by it, than another can in his health that was never sick; and really in my opinion the Penance  
of



of an ill Marriage ought to be the best Remedy, to make a Widow well favour the happiness of an unmarried life, and the most perswasive Argument to make her continue so.

I shall further observe, that the same *Apostle* in his first Epistle to *Timothy*, chap. 5. vers. 5. Seems to divide Widows into two sorts, the good, and the bad; the good he Characterises with the Title of being *Widows indeed*, and gives us this sign to know them by, *She that trusteth in God, and continueth in Prayers, and Supplications night and day*. This is the holy Mark, you may know a godly Widow by, and this is the Widow that the *Apostle* calls *a Widow indeed*, and orders *Timothy* to pay them great honour as such.

I am sure these are not at all a kin to the race of proud brisk ranting Widows that are in, and about *London*, who abstain not from Marriage upon the account of any retired religious Inclinations, or upon any want of desires to Marry, (for most of these Widows desire more Husbands than Husbands desire them) for they only abstain from Marriage because they cannot get Husbands to suit their fancy, for they must Marry such as are high enough to Match their Quality, Rich enough to maintain their Extravagancies, and fools enough to be govern'd by them; but such a sort of Abstinence from Marriage, springs rather from great pride, than true devotion; and so proves rather a  
Penance

Penance to their body, than proceeds from any principle of Vertue in their mind.

The bad sort of Widows the Apostle brands with the foul marks, *of being not only idle, but tattlers and busie-bodies wandring from House to House*, which among the *London Ladies* is called *Visiting*; these sort of Widows *S. Paul* orders *Timothy* to refuse, and not to admit into the number, and seems to give this reason for it; for when *a Widow waxeth wanton against Christ*, that is against holiness, *she will Marry*, (where by the by, take notice Widows, that Marrying is a sign of waxing wanton) and next, if that young Widows had not been naturally inclin'd to this sort of wantonness, the Apostle would never have given this strict charge about it, by ordering *Timothy* not to admit a Widow into the number under sixty, the Wife of one Husband, not two, which in effect was to admit no Widow, but such a one as resolv'd never to Marry; for sure the Apostle might very well conclude, that a Widow that did not Marry before sixty, would never Marry after; it being an unfit and undecent Age, as exceeding all the bounds of gravity and discretion, being an age altogether incapable to answer one of those ends Marriage was chiefly ordained for, bringing Children into the world; for *S. Paul* in the same Verse, *Where he will that young Women should Marry, he orders them to bring Children*. 1 Tim. 5. 14. So that 'tis clear,

clear, that a Widow at sixty ought not to Marry, because a Widow at that Age cannot bring forth Children; and tho I confefs a Widow at sixty may with her great Wealth buy a young Husband, (for Gallants are still to be had for Mony,) yet 'tis impossible that her years should ever breed a Child; for though her Mony may bring her a Husband to Bed, yet all the Midwives in Christendom can never bring her so.

And now I have given you my opinion as to old Widows, I shall here present my advice to the young ones, which is, instead of venturing on the great uncertainty of meeting a good Husband, you will dispose your selves unto the service of a good God, where you will be sure to enjoy true content in this world, (which is more than you will be sure to do in a Husband,) and eternal felicity in the next, in such a perfect state of blifs, as you will have nothing to hope, or fear, wish, or desire; for she that has all she desires, can have nothing to wish.

*S. Paul* says, *she that liveth in pleasure, is dead while she liveth*; therefore all Widows will do well to reflect seriously on the vast difference, of living in vanity, sin, and pleasure, and that of living vertuously, and in a true love, and holy fear of God; and so to be list-ed in the blessed number of those that *S. Paul* calls *Widows indeed, who continue in supplication and prayer, night and day.*

To conclude, this is the vast difference between the Widow that liveth in vain Pleasure, and she that liveth in the true fear of God; *The one is dead whilst she liveth, and the other shall live eternally after she is dead.*

## THE EIGHTH DISCOURSE.

### *Against keeping of MISSES.*

NOW I have finished my Discourse on the unpleasing Subject, of many Widows miseries by making second Marriages; I shall change that doleful Scene, and now bring on the Stage the gay, brisk, modish vice of keeping *Misses*; a sin grown so in fashion, as the great custom of the fashion, has overgrown the sence of the sin; being a vice so common, as its commonness makes many forget 'tis a vice, nay some of our young Atheistical Gentlemen are so far from condemning the sinfulness of it, as they pretend to justify its practice as not sinful; but for this sort of *Satanists*, they are only fit to be shut up with a *Red-Cross*, and a *Domine miserere* upon their Doors, that they may be branded so for the plague of their

H impiety,



impiety, as to keep in their infection to themselves, for these are steering directly before the Wind, with a full sail to Hell.

There are another sort, that steer almost the same course, but with a side wind; and tho these are of very wicked principles, yet they are not of so profane and debauch'd a kind, as the former; for these own, that keeing a Miss is ill, but they hold it a less evil to keep a good-humour'd handsom Miss, than to live with an old ugly ill-natured Wife; for say they, one need keep a Miss no longer than he likes and loves her; but one is still bound to live with a cross grain'd Wife, though he is so far from loving or liking her, as he hates her; but this Argument carries no force, but in wickedness, being indeed as very senseless and ridiculous, as its maintainers are highly impious and extravagant; since a Man by living with his ugly cross Wife, may thereby often meet occasions to exercise his patience, which may prove a vertue in some kind; but by keeping a Miss, he can never by it exercise a vertue in any kind; besides a Man by living with his Wife, tho never so deform'd, does but what he ought; but a Man by keeping a Miss, tho never so handsom, does what he ought not, since in so doing he offends his God.

There are another sort of vicious young Sparks, who you will easily believe have not attained to years of discretion by their pre-  
tending

tending to Argue, that 'tis not a greater ill to keep a handsom Miss, than for a Widow to Marry a bad Husband, but in my opinion this admits of no comparifon; for sure no Widow can be so mad, as to Marry a Man, that she is sure beforehand will be a bad Husband. But all Men that keep Misses know beforehand, that by so doing they act a great sin. A Widow by Marrying an ill Husband, only commits a fault against her own content, but he that keeps a Miss, offends against his Makers command; which must needs be very much worse, since an ill Husband can only disturb the body, but a scandalous sin may destroy the soul.

But yet tho a Widows Marrying an ill Husband, cannot possibly be of so ill a nature as a Mans keeping a Miss, yet it may probably be of a much more lasting trouble, since an ill Husbands life is like to last much longer, than a fair Misses beauty; for we all know 'tis very customary, for Miss keepers love, to end with their Misses beauty, since their beauty only makes the love.

In a word, I have known ill men that have made kind Husbands, so that 'tis possible a Widow may Marry an ill Man, and not be miserable; but 'tis impossible a Man can keep a Miss, and not be wicked.

'Tis a common Proverbial saying, *That a Wife is a necessary Evil*, which I fancy, is not to be taken in the sense most do, that Men can-

not live without them ; but because Men are still bound to live with them ; for whilst they are Wives, tho far from being good ones, yet poor Husbands are oblig'd to serve out their time of bondage, according to agreement *for better for worse, till death them do part.* But now for the new Mode of *protempore* Wives, called *Misses*, they are generally look'd upon by our Gallants, and keepers of them, as only Tenants at will, to Mens Persons, and Purfes; being tied to them in no other manner, than we are to reading Romances, on which we may begin when we will, and leave off when we please, for we are not oblig'd to read longer in them, than they suit our humor, and please our fancy.

Indeed *Misses* are now become in most great Towns, (especially *London*) to Gentlemen, as Books are in *Stationers Shops to Scholars*, where they may pick and chuse, Read sometimes this kind of Books, another that sort, all, or any, and hire them by the Day, Month or Year; and when they have read them over as oft as they please, and have no longer delight in them, or farther use of them, they may return them, and leave them where they found them, and there's no harm done, they lying ready expos'd for the next Courteous comer.

*Misses* in Towns are like Free-booters at Sea, no Purchase, no Pay, they are never out of their way, (except to Heaven) so they can  
but

but meet a prize in it; indeed our fine young Gallants are wise in this particular, (but pray do not ask me in what other left you puzzle me,) and this their wisdom consists only in chusing of two evils the least; for they will keep Misses which is ill, but they will not be bound to keep them longer than during pleasure, which is less ill than a longer time; that is, they will be tied to Misses by no other Law, than that dearly beloved one of sweet variety, Misses being to be us'd but like slight summer Garments, which are only useful in the youthful Spring or hot Summer Season of Mens Lives, and may without much Ceremony, or great difficulty be put on, or cast off; ('twere well if the sin of using them could be so too) lightly worn, and cheaply bought; Misses being but a kind of Summer-Fruit, for present eating, not long keeping, for their beauty will never hold out long after a hot *Venus* blast, or burning clap of thunder, and their Bodies are often withered and rotten before they are near ripe, in substance and perfection, as many of the Merchant Adventurers in that Trade, can tell you by woful experience.

And therefore young Men do wisely in not binding themselves to them, in Health, and Sickness, for then they are not only useless but chargeable; not till death them do part, but till their Misses beauties does decay, or their Passion change; for Miss-Love must still be Passio-



nate, because it ceaseth to be Love, when it ceaseth to be Passionate, having no other motive to cherish and maintain it; and therefore usually such Mens Love, expires as soon as their Misses beauty breaks, or may be sooner, if he be taken with a more agreeable object, for his present fancy and conveniency; for though most of our young Gallants Love constantly, yet few are constant in their Amours; for tho they are still Loving, 'tis Women more than a Woman; for considering they are only Constant to Inconstancy, they can only keep the name of Constant Lovers, as Rivers still keep the same Name, tho they are never two Minutes the same Water, they still running into the Sea, as Springs are still running into them.

Indeed if young Gallants were bound to keep their Misses during life, such an obligation would come so near to matrimonial bondage, as our young Gallant, on those terms, would as little love and like a handsom young Miss, as an ugly old Wife, all confinements to our Sparks of the times being odious.

O what a brave World and pleasant Age do we live in, when new fetts of Misses, are now grown modish marks of Greatness, as numbers of Wives and Concubines were signs of Magnificence in *Solomon's* days, which is the only thing I know our young Gallants imitate him in, and their only grand reason for doing it, is meerly because Christs holy Gospel forbids them doing it.

Really

Really the Drunkards in *S. Paul's* days, were a kind of sober Men to the Libertines of our Age; for they knowing their deeds were evil and scandalous, had so great a sense of modesty and shame, (tho not of sin,) as to cast a vail of darkness over them, to hide themselves and their Debauchery from the sight of others, which is implied by *S. Paul's* saying, *Those that are Drunken, are Drunken in the Night*; but the Debauchees of our times, so glory in their own unshamefulness as they expose their Persons and Vices, (I might have said Sins) to the open Sunshine, and publick Assemblies; and are so far from casting a vail, either to cover their own shame, or their Misses painted faces, as many of our young Sparks, nay, others that are more than middle aged Sinners, allow their Misses Coaches to themselves, but with Coachmen in their own Livery, for fear all might not know whose Misses they are, and who keeps them, to shew to the World that their vile impudence scorns all sober Mens censure, as well as it defies the great Gods punishment.

This base species of mercenary Miss Love, being grown as very common as themselves are, who are as impudent in their Carriage, as lewd in their Actions; and really 'tis now grown a disputable question which now abounds most in *London, Hackney Coaches,*

or Hackny-Women, Tradesmen or Trading-Women.

Thus impudence is now become a kind of Staple Commodity in our Kingdom of Love, it being now adays esteem'd a shameful meanness of Spirit in a young Gentleman, to be out of countenance for keeping a Miss, but grown no shame at all to keep one; they being now looked upon but as marks of greatness and riches, and signs of Youth, health, fashion, and gaiety; but never in the least thought on, to be the sad effects of sin, shame, folly, and wickedness.

O strange change! That sin should be thus supported by a customary impudence, and vertue suppressed by a general Custom: Thus the tolerated, nay I might have said encouraging mode of acting this sin, has taken away both the shame and conscience of committing it; yet as very debauch'd as our Age is, we ought not to cast our faults on it, for there can be no time so bad, as to render sins necessary; for general Custom, can never justify particular faults, since we might all live well, if we did not spend our time ill; for the will in her immediate operations, neither depends, nor moves by the temper of the body, or the fashion of the times, but by the motions of the mind, in her own Resolutions.

In a word, keeping of Misses, is now grown so common, not only among great Men, but  
others

others of as bad Lives, tho not of so great Estates; that now as to the keeping of Misses, there's nothing in it so strange, as that any should think it so.

## THE NINTH DISCOURSE.

*Of the vain folly of such Ladies who think to shew their Wit, by Jeering and Censuring their Neighbours.*

I Ndeed there would not need many Lines or Arguments on this Subject, to dissuade Ladies from Jeering at others Faults, if they would but seriously reflect on their own; for then certainly they would neither accuse others, nor justifie themselves, but avoid keeping Company with, or at least practising of, this base ill natur'd and uncharitable vice, of Jeering and Censuring their Neighbours.

We read in the Gospel of S. John, how the Scribes and Pharisees brought before our Saviour, the Woman that was taken in the Act of Adultery, to tempt him, saying, Moses in the Law commanded us, that such should be stoned, but what sayest thou? and after often asking,  
Jesus



*Jesus said unto them, he that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at her; and they that heard it being convicted in their own Consciences, went away one by one, and all left her; for as Solomon says, who is so pure as to have no sin?*

If all Censorious Ladies would but truly and heartily apply this saying to themselves, and fancy our Saviour now saying unto them, the Lady that is free from fault among you, cast the first Jeer at your Neighbour, I am confident the Ladies would be so Conscious of their own Guilt, as they would presently all leave this filthy sin, as the Scribes and Pharisees did the Adulterous Woman.

For there's no Woman in this World of so holy and pure a mixture, as to be free from any stain and fault, for then she must be more than a Woman; and therefore all Ladies ought to make it their business rather to mend their own faults, than make it their pastime to Jeer at those of others, which very likely they are guilty of themselves, and to consider, since all are infected, none ought to censure any, but every one to repent in particular for himself, and to be sorry in general for all.

I have known some ordinary home-spun witty Women, who have proclaim'd themselves very foolish in great Companies, and have shew'd their want of wit in attempting to Jeer at others above their reach, having only slight  
Ideas,

Ideas, of which they pretended to have a perfect knowledge, and so have exposed their faint glimmering wit and flashy talk, of self conceitedness, on a Candlestick, to be judged, and look'd into by every prying and abusive Critick, which had been much better kept at home under a Bushel, among their Friends and Neighbours; many of these pretenders to Ral-lying wit, fancying they have a perfect know-ledge of things when they do not understand, nor so much as know, that they do not know it; for there's a knowledge of Ignorance, as well as an Ignorance of knowledge, and some sin by a presumption of knowledge, as well as others do by an ignorant presumption; and therefore such Women pretenders to wit, may be assured that they have great reason to wish for a deliverance from their unknown ignorance, as well as holy *David* teacheth all Men to beg pardon of God for their secret and unknown faults. 'Tis in ordering of wit, as in managing of a voyce, she that has an indifferent sweet low voyce, and sings within its reach, may do it agreeable enough; but if she striving to sing better than she can, over mounts and stretches her voyce, by so overstraining it; she raises her weak voyce to meer squeaking, and so renders it more discord than good vocal Musick.

So truly an indifferent Wit that moves in the Sphere of her own ability, may pass for good witty pleasant Company; but if she pre-  
tends

tends to talk of what she does not understand, and by endeavouring to make witty scoffs on others, to cast only some gross foul slanders on them; such a one drowns her small Spring of wit, in the Ocean of her folly, and receives but contempt, instead of praise.

For my part I have a more nice opinion of that they generally call ignorance, than usually most have; for many esteem ignorance to consist only in the want of School learning, others in that of History, Philosophy, Mathematicks, Politicks, or the not well understanding the Affairs of the World, and the Intrigues of Courts, and the Men and factions in it, when in real truth, one may be a perfect Master of Art in all these, and yet be an ignorant Fresh-man in the very dawning, and beginning of true Wisdom, the fear of God; which truth is confirmed by a wiser *Solomon*, than any that dares contradict it; 'tis only that wisdom that leadeth to salvation.

Therefore I am of opinion that a Learned Man that knoweth much, and lives ill, and is uncharitable; is much more ignorant, than that Lady who knows little, and prays much, and gives Alms plentifully; and this occasioned the Wiseman to esteem Worldly wisdom but vanity, because it maketh not wise to salvation, and *S. Paul* tells us, *that worldly knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth*, and both Gods Word, and our own experience, (if we are ho-  
ly,)

ly,) can assure us, *that a good Conscience*, (which our gracious God never denies to those that beg it with great zeal, and in good time) *is a continual feast*.

Therefore your vain Ladies cannot but own in spite of all their aversness to it, that there must be much more wisdom in going to the House of Prayer, than pastime to go to the Play-house; though if we look into the seats on Sundays, and at the boxes on all the Week-days, we shall find more Ladies set out at this, than that; tho we know one is the great duty of Religion, and the other but a meer delight of fancy.

And if the fine Ladies and young Sparks, could read this and not be angry, I would desire them to consider seriously; tho I know serious consideration is very unmodish, and consequently very unusual among them to practise, and so uncivil in me to ask, what are witty Plays, and fine Romances; truly Plays of the very best sort are but fine pleasant Plots, sometimes taken out of true Story, sometimes raised by meer fancy; well acted, and finely represented on the Stage, richly gilded and set out with fine Scenes, quick Wit, pleasant Fancy, good Humor, modish Dress, and pure double refined Language, exactly fitted and tun'd to the present temper of the Times; and when all this is done, tho one may hear much wit in them, yet none can learn much wisdom



dom by them; Plays being writ for meer pastime to please the fancy, more than instruct the understanding, made to get the Poet praise, and the Players mony, rather than to teach the hearers vertue.

And so of Romances what are they other, than a pleasant ingenious mixture of fiction, made up in a large Volume of extraordinary Adventures, and witty well composed fancies; rarely set out, and richly adorn'd, with pure smooth Romantick Language, of strange things done, and fierce love made, by Knights Errants in the Air, where the Lovers perform a thousand Miracles in Fights, and single Combats, killing Men without ever hurting them, or so much as drawing their Sword towards it; (for all such relations are writ to the height of Invention, no matter if it surpasses all possibility of performance, for those niceties are needless in Romances,) and say all the fine things imaginable, without speaking a word, and follow their Mistrisses over many Kingdoms, without so much as stirring one step after them; so that I may truly enough say, that a Romance, is a Monster, composed of great contrarieties, and high falsities.

In short, when you have once read over a Romance, tho it be never so good and pleasant, yet 'tis but a kind of dull entertainment, to read it a second time, a Romance being like a Stratagem of War, never to be used well but once.

once. And yet these Plays and Romances are so many in number, and so highly in esteem, with our vain young Ladies, and fine Sparkish Gallants, as among many of them, they make it the main imployment of their Study, and the Library of their Books, (except perhaps an old *Practice of Piety* of the family, all mouldy through long keeping, and never using) being the great Treasury of their Wit, and the chief subject of their Discourses.

Indeed the vain flashy Wit of Plays and Romances, is but like sweet Flowers, or a fine delightful Voice; they can only for a little time, recreate and refresh the Senses, but can never benefit the Soul, or satisfy the necessities of the Body; which can never be fully fed, either by the Ears or Eyes.

And as the light of the Sun, tho it be of a most excellent general influence, yet alone could produce nothing; so a general Jeering wit, of it self can never bring forth any thing to strengthen the judgment, or improve the understanding; because it will not make use of the good Guides of Vertue, Prudence, Sobriety, and Piety, to direct it, on what Subject it may fall on, on what occasion it should be imploy'd in, and by what degrees and measures it ought to move, with fitting considerations of the persons, time, and place; and such Wits as will not observe these Rules, their drolling Wit will work like new Wine in old Bottles, which  
will

will be sure to burst and flie about, to the prejudice of themselves as well as others.

And now if the vain Ladies will but give themselves the trouble to observe carefully one of these common pretenders to rallying wit, (for all jeering wits are but pretenders; for if they had good wit, they would never be jeerers) you will find such a one chiefly made up of those four Elements in composition, *viz. Extravagancy and Dissimulation, Cowardise and Indiscretion*, all which he practises to every point of the Compass, guiding all his rambling talk by them, which is commonly so rude and abusive, as it causes all modest and vertuous persons to shun and detest the company, and acquaintance; for the hearts and tongues of such Men like ill Neighbours hardly ever meet in Unity and Communion one with another, they living in their bodies, as their eyes do in their heads, which tho still very near, yet never see one another; in short your Jeerers commonly want justice and consideration, either to speak what they think, or to think of what they speak, shooting their words at meer random; and so will be sure to have their share in the Proverb, *That a fools bolt is soon shot*, for their Tongue can only abuse themselves, not others: They hate a quiet settled Life, being never at rest, but whilst they are rambling from one Company to another, and never so well as when in motion; like some froward

Infants,

Infants, that are never at quiet longer than they are Rock'd in the Cradle, and as soon as that is at rest, they are not. And now I have nam'd a Cradle, I cannot but fancy that many of these ignorant pretenders to wit, *got a knock in their Cradle*, which has hindered their Brains, and consequently their Tongues, from being well settled ever since.

And as one may rationally enough conclude of the common Habit and Dress of a Nation, by only seeing one just come out of it, that lived long in it; so I fancy I may here venture to make a short description of the common nature of most of these drolling abusive Wits, by here making a Just representation, and giving you a true Picture of one of them, tho in little.

A common publick pretender to Jeer and abuse others, with his rallying Wit, is usually one, who makes it his great delight, and chief business to inquire, and pry into, others Mens words and actions, and to make his venomous Reflections on them, he only passing through their Discourses, as a Spie does an Enemies Country, with a mischievous design, to observe and return Intelligence of the defects and weakness in it, and then to be sure to attack those weaker parts with his sharp abuses; for if a Man has never so many vertues, and has but one vice, he will be sure to skip them all, to fall foul on that one; as flies leave the whole body, to fasten on the least gawl'd patch;



for such abusive Wits are like Surgeons, who live by others hurts, and have nothing to do with those parts that are sound.

A censorious scoffing Wit, is ordinarily composed, and made up of such a kind of Stuff as Fire-ships are, which serve for no other use, and are built and kept for no other purpose than to do mischief; the only good in them consists in doing harm, so the spirit and quintessence of these Mens ill temper'd venom, lies chiefly in abusiveness, turning all their Notes to the same Tune that the *Philistins* did *Samsons* words, only to raise and spend their mirth on, though to the prejudice of their dearest Friends, and nearest Relations, which they had rather lose than their Jest.

A common Talkative raillier ought by his Trade to be so courageously stout, or rather fool-hardy, as not to fear jeering every one; and yet indeed the Generality of them are so tame and Cowardly (for a generous mind scorns such a base and mean imployment) as to endure (as he well deserves) the slights and contempts of all he plays upon; for tho' he makes War against the whole Kingdom with his Tongue, yet he dares not fight with one Man in it with his Sword, and indeed for this he may well pretend some reason, (which I am sure he cannot for Jeering all Men,) first because a Sword is much sharper, and can wound far deeper than his Tongue; and next if he should fight

fight with every Man he raillies, and takes the liberty to abuse, he must fight more Duels in the Field, than ever Captain *Bessus* received Challenges in the Play; but my Gentleman is too wise in his Mirth to expose his body to such a sharp Encounter. In a word, if you desire to see this fierce *Satyrist* drawn to the life, you need but look on *S. George's* picture drawn a horseback, where he is still holding up his hand, but never strikes; for he fears danger like a poor-spirited Mortal, though he lives, as if he thought he should never die.

This sort of Men that make it their business, with their pretending Wit, to abuse all Persons; all the ill I need say of them, (for they say enough of themselves) is, that they take upon them an employment which they must have a great share of Wit to perform well, and must much want discretion to undertake at all; for at best if they are Masters of any Wit, they employ it ill, since they do not live so much by their own wit, as by others folly.

I hope now the vain Ladies that are given to Jeering will please to take notice, that I have on this Subject used them with the same respect that Tutors do young Princes, who when they have committed any great fault, instead of whipping them, whip their favourite play-fellow, for their Fault; that the Prince seeing the severe punishment used on their favorite  
 I 2 boy,

boy, may by his Chastisement avoid acting himself, the like fault for the future.

So tho I do not here name the Ladies, that are given to this filthy ill-natured vice; yet I assure them this Discourse was writ meerly for them, and aims only at them, as knowing it a Crime, that most of them through vanity do affect; and truly this base fault of Censuring must needs appear worse in a young Lady, than in any other; for as a black spot shews the clearer, the whiter the skin is that 'tis placed upon; so sharp raillery, and abusive wit, appear the more black and foul, coming out of the mouth of a beautiful Lady, whose words ought to be full of sweetness suitable to her looks.

And let me tell you this great Truth, that our pert Censorious Ladies might in a far shorter time, and with much less pains, and abundant more content to themselves gain the blessed Title of good Christians, than the bad Character of being witty and profane Jesters; which can only for a little time give them the applause of some irreligious and ill disposed persons, whose praises are really but discommendations: Whereas a truly pious and vertuous Lady, will still justly deserve, and ever constantly receive the true esteem and commendation of godly sober Men in this World; besides securing to herself Eternal happiness in the next.

Therefore if any of our vain Ladies desire to attain this happy state of bliss, let me here assure

assure them, that their right way to it, is wisely and charitably to Judge themselves, and not others, and instead of Jeering at others defects to mend their own; by first repenting of their own immoralities, and then being sorry for those that do not the like for theirs; for as wise *Seneca* says, *He that does good to another, does good to himself, not only in the Consequence, but in the very present act of doing it; for the Conscience of well doing, is a very pleasant ample reward in it self;* and therefore (I am sure) tho it be a very unmodish advice, yet 'tis a very good Christian doctrine, not to undo a Ladies reputation to please your own boundless and extravagant fancy in being admired and thought witty in doing mischief, and therefore 'tis rather a Christian duty if you see your Neighbour lie under any affliction, or live under any imputation of scandal, that you are free from, to correct your proud and high minded thoughts in fancying that by this you merit so much better than she; but rather thank God, that he is more merciful to you than her, and be still reforming other Womens faults, by your own good example, rather than continue to inflame them by your sharp invectives, and malicious Censures, which often create bitter Enemies, but seldom make good Friends or better Christians.

*Solomon* says, *Prov. 20. 3. It is an honour to avoid strife, but every fool will be meddling;* all



Ladies ought so to govern their Discourses, as to make them civil and obliging, not indiscreet and Censorious; but to be suited to the time, place, and company you are in; for airy talk, and rallying mirth, would not agree but look ill at a sad, and grave Funeral assembly; and so on the other hand, an abundance of gravity and reservedness must be very unbecoming, as being very unsuitable to a Jovial Wedding-Company met only to feast, dance and be merry; for then gravity would pass for a kind of dislike as if you censured others jollity.

We read in Scripture of Tongue Murderers, who tho they are bloudless, yet are not guiltless; and Solomon says, *That a whisperer separates chief Friends*; and yet how common is it among our vain young witty Ladies, to make defamation their chief talk, and whispering of lies against their Neighbours the main Topicks of their Discourse, if not the constant entertainment of their Visitors, esteeming it but a part of modish Repartee and fine breeding, to rally at and censure others, and to make sport at their infirmities; nay often create faults merely to make sport, so they be but wittily invented, no matter how unjustly they are raised; sure such Ladies never read that saying of Solomon, *That to do mischief is the sport of a fool, and he that uttereth a slander is one*; and therefore she must be much worse than a fool, that not only vents, but invents slanders.

How

How common is it among our vain witty Ladies, to make a quarrel, rather than lose a Jeer, and disoblige a good Neighbour, sooner than stifle a witty Jest; and so as the Wife man says, make sport with casting out Fire-brands, never considering, (at least not caring,) that an injustice done to your Neighbour is a sin against God; for tho you really only aim it at your Neighbour, yet being forbidden by God, your disobedience renders it a sin against God himself: And 'tis little less to Jeer at any ones natural defects or infirmities, as being born ugly, crooked or the like, since 'tis in a manner reproaching God for making them so.

But why should I spend time in taking notice of Ladies jeering at others ill shapes, bad faces, or little wit, when many of the young Atheistical fry of our times, are so profane, as to pick out faults, in Gods sacred Word, and so raily at, what they ought to adore, and can only hope to be saved by; I am sure our blessed Saviours Doctrin is so far against the scandalous abuses and censures of the Age, wherewith some reproach their Neighbours, who have been possibly injurious to them; that he forbids us to return them never so little, tho they are giving us never so much, but commands us not to rail and jeer at them, that jeer and rail at us; *but to pray for our Enemies, and to do good to those that spitefully use us;* God having instituted it as a Fundamental

Law to Mankind, not to do our Neighbours any harm, in Body, Goods, or good Name; but to do them all the good we can in every of them.

In short, this is the sad and unequal deportment of most vain handsom Ladies, both as to themselves, and others; which is to be angry with their Neighbours without a Cause, and never to be angry at themselves, tho they have one, many of the vain Ladies esteeming it a sufficient ground of quarrel, and anger, at other young Ladies for being more handsom than they; but forget at the same time to be offended at themselves for being less pious than them, *in not loving their Neighbours as themselves*, for if they did, they would never offer, what they would not take.

But so vain and wicked is our Age, as common Custom, and little Consideration, makes many of the vain witty Ladies to fancy, that Romantick Lies, and detracting Jeers, are but Wind, which if granted, yet it cannot be denied, but the often repetition may unite them into a storm of sins; for does not experience teach us, that light flakes of Snow, that singly scarce weigh any thing, being but a kind of half-congealed Atoms, yet do often by their long united Confluence swell into an ability of destroying Houses and Families in spite of their greatest resistance.

Solomon says, *Prov. 16. 27. That an ungodly Mans lips is as a burning fire*, and in the very next Verse seems to explain what he means by a burning fire; *a froward Man soweth strife, and a whisperer separateth chief Friends*, as I said before; how common is it among the vain Ladies of the times, to lessen their handsom Neighbours beauty, meerly on design that by Eclipsing it, they might make their own shine out the Clearer, and often to raise scandalous Reports to blemish her Reputation among her Friends, and Lovers; it being indeed too common a practice among them to whisper about ill Reports of their Neighbours as told them abroad from others, when really they were Coin'd at home by themselves. O vain Ladies, if you will not for your own and shame sake, at least for vertue and honour sake, abandon raising all wicked scandals on your Neighbours, and banish from your practice, all impertinent senseless strifes, all censuring twattles, and sharp offensive scoffs, which tho a mode vice, is so great a Crime, as it truly requires a strict Repentance, and a high Reparation for the offence to the Persons so injured; and that such scandalous Jeerers would for the future, as *David* says, *Keep a Bridle in their Mouth, that they offend not with their Tongue*; and so new mould, and well regulate it, as instead of using it as an Engine to rack their Neighbours Reputation with, they may hence-



henceforward, employ and consecrate it to the setting out, and stretching forth, their vertue and good name; and let all your strife be in a pious Emulation of vertue and holiness, and in religious endeavors who shall excel, and take place in the true and constant practice of them, in their lives and conversation; for in them consists not only the greatest wisdom, highest wit, but also the best breeding, and most sublime and splended beauty, being the everlasting one of holiness, besides that of pure honour indeed; for Gospel Heraldry must ever be the very best, for the greatest Monarch in this World must live a sinner, but the meanest Woman in it, by her living a godly and vertuous life, may die a Saint, and therefore it must certainly be much better to live well, and so die happily, than to be born great, left rich, or look handsom; for the beauty of a fair delicate Complexion, may be a Womans own purchase, not Natures gift, and her high Title, and great Estate, may be left her by her friends, without being in the least merited by her self; but to be highly pious, and truly vertuous, must most certainly be the true and lawful Issue of a Womans own Religious inclinations: Therefore I shall conclude this Discourse, with this undeniable Truth, That true goodness, is true greatness; and that Lady will be the greatest in the other World, that lives the best in this.

THE TENTH  
DISCOURSE.

*Of French Fashions and Dresses, now used  
in England, by the modish Ladies, and  
young Sparks.*

Divines tell us, that perfect life may be seen in short measures, and Painters assure us that exact beauty may be drawn in small proportions, and experience shews us, that an infinity of words, is made of a few letters; and 'tis approv'd by the great Wits, and Poets of the Stage, that a short Prologue may suit well with a long Play; and since I do not here pretend, nor indeed so much as ambition to keep company with their great Wit, I hope they will admit me to follow their short measures, and by their example justify this my small discourse from appearing very unsuitable to this large Theme.

Solomon in his Character of a Covetous Person, says, *He is one whom God hath given riches and honour to, so that he wanteth nothing of all that he desires, but God giveth him not the power*

*to eat thereof*; which is an evil Disease, because such a Man wanteth even what he hath; what can such a miserable be call'd better than a sad wretch, that makes himself a voluntary Slave, to labour in the Mines of his own wealth, and Vassal-like only to enjoy the drudgery part for his own share, making his wealth a burden, without reaping any true pleasure or advantage by it; so that such a Man, tho he be never so rich, must die in debt to himself; for he strips himself of necessaries during his own life, to make his Children a Wardrobe after his death.

I am sure the prodigality of our *London Gallants* is after a quite different Manner; for so they can but make a Wardrobe for themselves and Misses during their own lives, many of them care not tho they leave their Children in a condition to want necessaries after their death, which too many of them can justify by woful experience; several of their Fathers Estates, that did belong to them as their Birth-right, by their Parents luxury, pride, and folly, have been made a sacrifice to the extravagant expences, and vain profuseness of their Mistresses pride, and their own sottishness, as that they have left nothing to their Heirs of Inheritance, but the wind, (as *Solomon* expresses it,) *Prov. 11. 29. The certain loss of their fathers Estate, and the uncertain getting another for themselves if they can.*

I have

I have read of a Philosopher that was perswaded by his friends to leave his retirement for a little time to see a fine Shop plentifully stor'd with all manner of rich things, and fine knacks, and being asked what he thought of all those rare things : I am thinking (said he) what a World of things are here I do not want, for what's more than we use, is more than we need.

I am confident if one of our fine *London Ladies* had been shewn that sight, and asked that question ; her answer had been, what a World of things I want that are not here, which much justifies a Writers saying, that the ancient *Latins* called Womens Wardrobe, *Mundus*, a World ; yet I find in the Map of Womens ornamental Dresses, reckoned by the Prophet *Isaiab*, the sum total of them there named, to be but twenty one ; which clearly shews the vast difference between the twenty one years of Men, and the twenty one Dresses of Women ; for by the Law of our Kingdoms, all Mens years under one and twenty, are not allow'd to reach discretion ; but our Prophet seems here to say, that by the Law of God, all Womens Dresses, that amount to, much more that pass beyond twenty one, must exceed all discretion ; for certainly they must be too many for Women to wear, whom God declares too many for him to like.

And



And tho without any dispute 'tis a sin to doubt, that those ornamental Dresses which the Creator thinks too many, no Woman Creature but ought to esteem more than enough; yet so extravagant and phantastical are many of our fine Ladies and Gallants, as they are so far from esteeming that Number sufficient, as they send almost every week to *Paris*, for such supplies of new fashion Dresses, as one might as soon Climb up to the Top of all Numbers, as to hope to reckon the numberless variety of Womens Dresses; there belonging much more Rigging to set out a young Lady, than a Man of War; so hard 'tis to cast up the variety of parts, as now adays belong to compleat a great Modish Ladies Dress and Equipage.

And therefore I fancy an old Philosopher gave both a good Reason and true Character of the fashion of rich Dresses, *That 'twas the deadly catching Disease of Women, and the foolish passion of men.* Indeed I find no reason to believe any of these kind of Ladies are knowing in Philosophy, because they cannot be lovers of Wisdom, that are haters of Discretion which makes a main part of it. But I have a great deal of reason to believe that they are knowing in Sarans Arithmatick, and too well understand sinful Subtraction, and vain Multiplication, since we find so many of them can Subtract the Ten Commandments to the scarce keeping of one, and multiply the twenty

ty one ornamental Dresses, to the using of hundreds.

And the worst of it, is, that not one of these twenty one Dresses are a kin to those *S. Peter* advised the Women of his time to wear, *which was not putting on Gold, or curling Hair, or what is Corruptible, but the Ornaments of a meek and quiet Spirit, 1 Pet. 3. 3, 4.* which exactly suits the true beauty of Religion, which the Apostle says, *is of great price in the sight of God*, for that will render Women of so pious a Temper, as tho the youthful gaiety of their human Nature, may make them think of the vain dresses of the times, yet their sanctified minds will never let them forget to be true followers of the state of Eternity.

Indeed 'tis a hard measuring Cast, whether their variety of vain extravagant Dresses, deserves more Mens sober pity, or contempt, most, I am sure are fitter for either, than my description; yet I must be Charitable to them, tho they are far from being so to themselves, as to wish that these our fine young modish Ladies, and their Gallants, would keep more Commandments, and use fewer Dresses, that they might thereby lessen their own particular vanities, and moderate the general *English* outcry against *French* fashions, which many think have not only over-run, but near destroyed, all our noble ancient great way of Living; and grave kinds of sober Dresses.

Sure

Sure if our fine young Ladies and great Modists, would but a little seriously reflect of what most of their fine Clothes are made, they would not be so proud to glory in, what they really ought to be asham'd off; for the fine Silks we wear, are but the workings of poor little Worms, and our finest Cloth is made of the Wooll of Sheep; so that our covering was but that of Beasts, till our pride and vanity robb'd them of it.

And indeed our great adored Mistris Mony, which all, of all sorts receive with so great joy, and entertain with so high delight, as the only true happy, and undecaying Mistris in this World, for all Love her passionatly at once, and what's yet stranger than all, both Sexes are still constant in their eager love, and great fondness of her; nay *Solomon* had so great an esteem and value for Money, as he said it answered all things, yet if we truly look into its Extraction, we shall find it as very mean as that of our Clothes, for as *Seneca* well observes, *That Gold and Silver were still mixt, and never kept better Company than Earth and Dust, till avarice and ambition raised and parted them, and so they became our Masters as well as Mistrisses.*

O how strangely is Apparel Metamorphosed! We read in *Genesis* that it was first used to hide our Shame, but now 'tis worn to shew our Pride, and God knows if we truly consider, we  
are

are very far from having any reason to boast of our Apparel, since 'tis but the cover of Shame and Sin, and therefore we ought to wear it but as deep mourning for the great loss of our dear friend Innocency.

Nor can any deny, but that Mourning is a Garment fitter according to the strictest niceties of our very present Modes, to denote true sadness, than set out vain glory; to manifest grief, than express joy; yet so evil is our present Age, as many of the wicked brood of elder Brothers, who as one said, pray for their Fathers lives, but not their living, plainly shew at their Fathers death, in what a manner they are concern'd for his loss, (not theirs) by their chearful Countenance, and Gay Lives; which clearly Proclaim that they Mourned rather because their Fathers lived so long, than died so soon, and so make their long funeral Cloaks, (which usually weigh heavier on their Backs, than the cause of them on their Hearts,) rather a Habit of great Joy, than true Mourning.

But real Mourning hath nothing to do with our *French* Dresses, therefore this discourse shall have no more to do with it; and I will now return to my Subject, and mind you that the *French* have brought into *England* so many strange Fashions, as 'tis to be feared our young fry of Nobility, and Gentry, will esteem piety and vertue as things quite out of fashion,



and use; and indeed their Lives cannot be more extravagant and vain, than their Apparel, if I can properly say they have any left.

Certainly if Sir *John Suckling* had lived to these times, he might well have added to that pithy saying of his, *This trifle Woman, will unman us all, and uncloath us too*, for Doublets are quite left off by all the Modists: And for the Breeches most of our young Sparks, and some of the old Fops have lost them also, being generally given by our Gallants to their Mistresses, and by the meer Country Gentlemen to their Wives, which by the by, is a new Mode that contradicts the old Law, to confound the Habits of several Sexes; so that if our Women increase thus in Power, and our Men continue so in folly, 'tis very probable, that those of the next Age may see our *English* Modists pictur'd as they do Truth, that's naked.

These sort of Men, if I may properly call them Men that have lost their Manhood, having left off their Doublets, and yielded up their Breeches, have nothing on to wear but their Coats, which may indeed serve to cover their Nakedness, but can never hide their Shame; for so degenerating is their temper as to make themselves servants to Women, whom by their birth-right they ought to rule over as Lords and Masters; and what is worse and stranger than all this, to be pleased and glory in their servitude.

I read

I read of a great Politician that Counsell'd his Prince, to reflect on the dangerous consequence that might happen by admitting his Subjects to receive Pensions from forrein Kings; and his reason was, that forrein food, was apt to breed forrein blood in them. And indeed 'tis a saying as very true, as old, that use is a second nature; we being apt to like best, what we are accusom'd to most; both history and our own experience afford us many strange examples of the nature of Custom, and among those many, one of an *English Gentleman*, who was in my time in the Gallies at *Marseillies*; where by long Custom of being so, he not only grew a Contended Slave, but if I may so say, a Voluntier; for he was a good Gentleman of the Family of the *Courtnies*, and (as he said) had some prospect of an Estate in *England*; yet he chose to continue that kind of Life, rather than enjoy his Liberty, which they say was offered to be procured for him; which mad refusal of his, has totally defeated half the *French Proverb*, *That there can be no such thing in Nature, as an ugly Mistress, or a bandsom Prison.*

'Tis an old Curse among the *Turks*, *I wish you as little rest as a Christians Hat*, and I wish it may not grow a new Curse among the Christians, *I wish you as little rest as an English Fashion*, for they are now so much *Frenchesied*, as they change oftner than the Moon, and rest

as little as the Sea, which is in a continual motion: And I think I may properly enough say of Fashions, what a Writer said of Serving-Men, *such as are extraordinary Tall are entertained for Porters to Lords; and such as are very Low, are taken to be Dwarfs to Ladies, whilst Men of a good middle-size Stature, often want Masters.*

So all extremities of Fashions are worn by many of the Lords and Ladies, but a sober moderate Dress few will entertain.

So much have these extremities of *French* Fashions infatuated our minds, and debauch'd our fancies, that those that do not exactly follow their Measures (tho they are above all needful use, and very much beside all decent sobriety) are esteem'd as great Phanaticks, and Dissenters to the gentle Rules of modish Dressing, as any Nonconformist can be to the Government of *Church Discipline.*

Thus we have fool'd our selves into such ridiculous extreams, as to make the *French* superfluities, to become not only the Standard of our Fashions, but the very necessity of our Apparel; *Paris* being for Fashions, like the *Camelion* for its Colours, who gives them to all beholders, whereas in all others we receive them from the Ideas of things we meet with.

And indeed the *French* Fashions change so often, and cost so dear, that many of our young Fops that are newly got into their Estates, but  
not

not at all into their years of discretion, do follow their vain fashions and so (to be esteemed modishly well bred,) in a little time, are forced to sell their real Estates for ever; and if 'twere not for fear of grating your Ears with the unsavory sound of a Clinch, I was just going to say, that they are the very worst sort of Fools, that will sell *English* Lordships to buy *French* Manners.

As our Conditions are not alike, so our Dresses ought not to be the same, for our Clothes must match our Revenue, as well as fit our Body, for great Expences become a poor Man, as a large *Switzers* Breeches does a Dwarf. The Cost of keeping a great Table, a rich Equipage, and a large Retinue, being only for a Person of great Quality, and good Estate; and he that sells his Lands, only to live at such a ranting extravagant rate, in a few Months shews his great folly, as well as merits the misery of sad want.

Apparel like a River, is only good and useful, whilst kept within the Banks and Limits of Moderation, but when it begins to swell and break out into excess, it is so far from being useful, as it still proves pernicious if not destructive.

We read that the *Romans* were so very cautious and wise, as to banish out of their Republick, such as should attempt to give any new advice in it, and I fancy the reason for it



was, that they believed there were more bad, than good Men in their Republic; and therefore such more forward to receive ill Advice, than hearken to good Counsel. And since I put no Name here, I will venture to say, *'Twere well the same Rule were used as to Dreffes, and that any one that brought into England a new fashion'd Dress according to the Paris Mode, might be banished it; because 'tis most certain there are more of our young Men and Women, extravagantly given, than vertuously inclin'd; and consequently more apt to imitate a new Mode, especially if a French Dress, than any sober decent Apparel of their own Country Growth; for indeed it may be truly said of our English following French fashions, what a Writer said of Aristotle, that whatsoever indigested notions he vomited up, there were many young Philosophers ready to lick them up; I am sure what extravagant fashions the French wear, too many people are apt to approve and follow.*

Really I cannot now but laugh, as well as wonder, when I think how our young *English* Nobility and Gentry, are tied and confined to the strict Rules of the *French* fashions; for our *English* Judgments (in that grand affair of Dreffes) are only admitted to imitate and approve, and many imitate what they do not approve; for their Fancies are not allow'd to invent or choose, scarce add or diminish, but we must forsooth with an implicit Faith, reverence

rence what the *French* wear, and to be as infallible a rule to our *English* Modes, as a Church Decree is a Guide to those of the *Roman* Faith.

In a word, our young Gallants are grown so very vain in their Apparel and Dresses, that desiring to see change and excess of vanity, we need but look on one anothers vain change of Dresses, being almost as diverse as the Persons that wear them; and therefore 'tis impossible to view them all, but I can give you in a line this exact and true Character of them, *That our Modes are become the effects of our vain fantastick Prodigality, and more irregular Inconstancy.*

Indeed all our vain expensive *French* Dresses, may make the Ladies or Gallants finer, but never better or worser; for Embroidered Clothes to our Bodies, are but like flowers of Rhetoric in Speeches; they make the words sound the sweeter, but render not the sense the better, it may please the Ear, but it does not improve the Judgment: Or like silver Dishes on a Table, they may shew their own Costliness, but they make no addition or goodness to the Meat they contain, whatever they may do to the fancy of the Eater, or Observer.

Really if we would but allow Conscience or Reason a Vote in this affair, we should soon be assured by them; that there appears more true wisdom, and satisfaction in giving one

Penny, as an Alms-deed for Christ's sake, than in laying out many Pounds on bravery for our own; more real fine in Clothing one that's naked, on a pious account of true Charity, than by bedawbing twenty footmen in Gold or Silver rich Liveries on the score either of vanity or Fashion, and that because it suits the *London* or *Paris* Mode. For I esteem Livery-men (excepting those that are really necessary to a Mans person and Quality) but just so many Porters that are hired to carry about a Mans pride and folly, and the several Colours of his Liveries to be but so many Lures, and Jack Puddings to draw mens Eyes to behold a fair shew, not only of his own Pride, but often of his Merchants loss; for 'tis now grown no common wonder, especially in *London*, to see young Sparks Clothes, and their Footmens Liveries to last longer in their Merchants books, than on their own, or Footmens backs, and they turned off, before the Books are Crossed out.

In a word, I wish our *French* fashions, may not prove fatal follies, by being soon naturalized into *English* Customs; for then let them be never so costly, ridiculous, and vain, like blackness among the *Æthiopians*, the commonness may remove their deformity, but can never smother the prejudices against them.

I will now only add this Consideration to conclude all, in reference to our fine young  
*Frenchified*

*Frenchified* Ladies, and that is, that they would seriously reflect on the end of all their fine Modish Dresses, and their greater loss of pretious time they wast about them, which occasions their minding so much the fineness of their Bodies, as many of them neglect by it the care of their Souls, the best and only lasting part; and therefore they should remember that they must die certainly, tho they now live pleasantly, and then all their plenty of fine rich *Frenchified* Dresses will be contained in one poor Winding Sheet, and their exact slender shape in a Coffin, and all their fine Gallants, and constant admirers, will leave them at the Grave, where their Bodies will be only fit to be enjoyed by nasty worms.

This (young Ladies) is the true Epilogue to the sad Tragedy of your vain Dresses, and what's yet worse than all, your Souls will be in as sad a condition as your Bodies after death without a hearty Repentance, which can never be without a real amendment, in abandoning, not only great Sins, but vain excesses, as well in Dresses, as wasting time about them, and that you come to esteem them as *Solomon* did the pleasures of this World, only as vanity of vanities.

Therefore all you young Ladies, that desire to cloath your Souls in a Heavenly dress, adorn your Lives with constant Piety, and your Bodies with modest and decent Clothing, such as  
wasts



wasts not too much of your time or Estate; but wear still what is most generally worn, and then you may be sure, that few persons will either gaze or laugh at you.

## T H E E L E V E N T H D I S C O U R S E.

*Of Worldly Praises, which all Ladies love to receive, but few strive to merit; with the sad end of it and them, when they come to Die.*

**W**Orldly Praise is a Subject I shall write little of, for these two Reasons, first that I need not write for it, and next that I dare not write against it; for as on the one hand it would be vain and superfluous to make that my business to commend, what all Praise; so on the other side, it would argue a great folly to write against that all the World writes for; therefore to prevent all I can writing superfluously or foolishly, I shall only glance this Discourse on the Worlds high esteem, and eager ambition after vain Praises; the desires of gaining it being as inseparable from most Men and Womens Actions, as Light is from the Sun, or heat from fire, and shall only name the

the

the common ways to it, and the usual end of it, and them, when they come to die.

Praise is that great Idol, which all people in the World adore and flatter as the Supreme object of their pleasure and delight, as having a perfect influence over all our Actions of what kind, degree, and quality whatsoever. And therefore let publick Writers say what they will, and pretend what they please, self Praise is the Jack they all Bowl at, tho many take several Grounds to it. And tho some Writers are more humble, and reserv'd; more moderate, and less opinionaters of their own Writings, less apt to Censure those of others, that differ in Opinion from theirs, than usually most kind of Writers are; yet all of them court Praise, tho in several shapes and differing manners.

Some court Praise by their ingenious Writing, others think to gain it by their witty speaking, and a third sort hope to procure it by a discreet silence, relying upon wise Solomon's saying, *a Man of understanding holdeth his peace, and a Fool useth many Words.*

The finest Ware is usually the closest wrapt up, and Silence is not only still useful to shelter a Fool, but often to discover a wise Man. 'Tis wisdom to speak when one ought, and folly when we ought not; he needs much Reason that speaks well, but a little serveth him that holdeth his Peace; since he that takes upon  
him

him to speak wisely on a Subject, but does it simply, all hearers are Judges and witnesses of his folly, but he that is silent, none can justly tell whether he can speak wisely or not, and so as to him, ought to hold their Peace, because he does his.

There are as many Roads and Paths to Praise as there are employments, I think I might well venture to say all Actions in the World, and hope of Praise is the common Guide and Conductor general to them all, making the greatest Enemies, and most distant Inhabitants of the World, to agree in the bands of unity and friendship.

Praise is the greatest of all Levellers, for it brings the highest and lowest degrees of Men to an equality; for the greatest Monarch in the World, and the meanest Subject in his Station are alike as to their desires of Praise, tho they vastly differ in the manner and degrees of aspiring to it; Praise is as a Sum writ in Figures, 'tis every Nations Language, and is, and will be every Countries ambition.

And 'tis well worth observation, that this thing called Praise, is so light, airy, and volatile, as tho few are such Fools to hope for a Livelihood solely from it, yet many are so mad as to expose their Lives meerly for it.

Really the fine young Ladies need but open their Eyes, and they cannot but behold their partiality, in distributing of their Praises to others,

others, and in receiving others praises to themselves; for if one of the Ladies is Mistris of any one quality that they know is truly esteemable, they believe all the World looks on it, but then oversees all their vices that are apparently faulty; so very wicked many young Women are, as to be more apt and ready, to see and blame their own faults in others, than to consider or mend them in themselves.

And the like measures they usually observe, as to the beauties, or defects of their bodies, if they have any part that is very handsom, they fancy all that look on them fix their eyes on it; but if their Nose or Eyes be ugly, they think none takes notice of them; but I desire the Lady that pretends to praises after this rate, to oblige me, or rather themselves, so much as seriously to consider this very plain question. If you should see a fine young Gentleman, of a fam'd vertuous Life, and most excellently well bred, and highly renown'd for his true humility, and great Charity; in a word, that was a Person indued with all the excellencies both of body and mind, that can render a Man compleatly perfect and admirable, only that he wanted an Eye; pray ask your self, if you should not be more ready to observe and blame the blemish of that one Eye, than to praise any of all his Excellencies; I am confident you cannot deny but you should, and sure such a blind kind of imputation



tion in you, is as bad as the want of an Eye in him; for perhaps he lost his Eye by a fit of sickness, as many do in the *Small Pox*, which is now his great trouble, but never was at all his own fault, and therefore we ought rather to pity that misfortune, than jeer at that defect: Or suppose he met that loss in his Infancy, and was in a manner born so; might you not then as wisely, and reasonably, despise the two grand Seasons of the Year, the Summer for being too hot, and the Winter too cold, when they are not too immoderate, but you too foolish, for esteeming them so.

There is no Womans beauty under the Sun, that is so intirely perfect as to be without some Fault, for then she must be more than Woman; nay the very glorious Sun it self is not without its Eclipses; yet sure none can be so very foolish as not to admire and praise its splendour and brightness, though 'tis sometimes obscured with a Cloud.

Nor can you propose to your self, that 'tis a think fitting or reasonable to despise and railly any man, because he cannot work Miracles, and perform impossibilities, by raising the dead to life; for 'twould be as ridiculous in any one to hope to restore a lost Eye, by wishing for it, as you to change the Seasons of the Year, by your blaming of them.

Therefore let me advise you instead of railly  
lying at what cannot be help'd in others,  
strive

strive to mend those Faults which may be yet cured in your self, which can never be well done, till you still behold the defects of others with a sad troubled Eye, which you cannot forbear doing, if you observe as you ought Gods Command *of loving your Neighbour as your self*, for his afflictions must be then yours, as well as yours are now your own: And his blemishes or faults would be but so many Memorandums of your own frail defects, and so must render you more fit, and better disposed to, support those of others, and rather make it your business to be concern'd for them, than your pastime to jeer at them.

In a word, the young Lady that enjoys that share of beauty, which perhaps her Neighbour is troubled for the want of, let it not render her proud, that she is more celebrated than another, but rather let her express her humility, and make it the great motive of her praise to God, that he has been so liberal to her in this perfection.

But to return to my design'd Subject, Praises that are not stamp'd with true vertue and great merit, are but meer Air; all false Tongues can flatteringly give them, but 'tis only your own vertues that can justly merit them.

'Tis with Praises, as with Faults, they that charge you with those you are free from, do you no real hurt, and those that present you with praises you no way deserve, do you no  
real

real good ; therefore to apply to your self the right use of both, instead of being angry at others for accusing you of some vices you do not act ; be angry with your self for acting the many you do, which is the true way of having Praises, and deserving them too.

Praise is not only the dearly beloved Mistress of *Christendom*, but also of *Turky* ; for 'twas Praise that was the occasion of making the grand *Vizier Mustapha* lose so many Men before *Vienna* ; for his Story tells us, that he did not attempt that Siege so much to serve his Master, as to Court his Mistress, more out of design to gain her, than out of hopes to take it ; but *Mustapha* was as much mistaken in his measures of Conquering his Mistress's heart, as in those of taking *Vienna* ; for by destroying her Husbands life, he totally destroyed her Love, and so made his Mistress to revenge her Husbands death, to beg the *Grand Seignior* to take away *Mustapha's* Life, which he did, and by it, she shew'd her kindness to her Husband, and the *Grand Seignior* his Justice to her.

'Tis desire of praise and ambition that makes the *French King* imploy such vast Sums of Mony, and Armies of Soldiers to work about his Palace of *Versaillies*, which is rather a Prodigy of Riches, than a Miracle of Nature ; fitter to be wondred at, for the vast expences laid out on it, than to be praised for any agreeableness about it, except the Gardens and

Water:

Water-works, which indeed excel all either of *Rome* or *Florence*, and consequently the whole World; but for the House it self, I could observe nothing in it extraordinary except the rich Gildings both within, and without; and therefore as to my own opinion of the Place, I think there's nothing so wonderful in all that glory, as that any one should so much admire it, having neither River, Wood, good Land, or pleasant Prospect about it, being all round about close besieged by great coarse and ragged Hills, which cannot add much lustre and glory to the Situation of any place of such vast Expence and Magnificence, so as to be Celebrated by some as one of the Wonders of the World.

We read in History that *Alexander* the Great expressed much trouble, that he had no more Kingdoms left him to Conquer; I am sure the *French* King needs no cause of trouble, for want of more Hills to Conquer and site about his Palace of *Versaillies*, as long as he lives, tho he had more Men and Mony to employ about levelling them, than now he has. Indeed such a Royal Building of Magnificence well deserved a most pleasant and Stately Situation, but it seems that King thought it more noble & better becoming his greatness to make one by the expence of Art, than to be beholden to one of Natures free bounty, that the World might know, he scorn'd so mean an offer, whilst he has Armies that can level Mountains



as plain as he pleases, and Mony to mount Rivers as high as he desires.

And indeed if we range over not only *France* and *Turky*, but all the whole World, we shall find that Praise is the Butt all Shoot at, tho few hit the Mark; for if we but look narrowly into Praises, and consider the Actions, as well as the Persons, they are commonly great Flatterers, and the breath of such Praises, is but like a Rain-bow, which is no other than a meer seeming Collection of many bright Colours, without any true substance, or long duration, one day discovering the folly of the other, and a few days will shew you your own end, and with it the vanity of them all.

Therefore if the young Ladies could but perswade themselves to think seriously of the little reality there is in the Praises Men present them, and the vain pastimes the World deludes them with; both Women and Men will find that most of their delights are vain and despicable, for the possession of much beauty breeds great pride, and high concern; and the decay of it creates in such as much discontent and envy at what they then lose, and afterwards see others enjoy. And so 'tis the same with many of Mens Worldly delights, which soon become uneasy to the Mind, and often destructive to the Body; for a debauch of drinking makes most sick and out of order after it, and the enjoyment of handsom ill Women,

men, causes usually foul Pocky Diseases, (such *French* punishment, suiting well with such an *English* transgression) for the fondness of an unvertuous Love placed on an unchast Womans beauty, is like the Fire of a Candle, which lasts no longer than it flames, and Candle like as soon as its flame is consum'd, it presently expires in a stinking snuff. So such a debauch'd Love, ( I should have said Lust ) commonly ends with the odious detesting thoughts, of such a foul and lustful passion, which makes him then loath the sinner, as he ought still the sin, and himself for having committed the folly.

And if any one of these *Venus* Courtiers falls in Love with a truly vertuous Beauty, & hopes to gain his base unchast desires of her, by fierce Courtship, great adoration, large offers of Presents, & all these thick larded with the common false Oaths of the praises of her great beauty, and his great and constant Love, the *Lingua franca*, of all Gallants which all still swear to observe, but few ever design to perform, and therefore handsom Ladies never ought to Credit; for surely he that speaks what he does not believe, none ought to believe what he speaks, but is bound in Conscience and Honour, to slight his Courtship, and scorn his Offers, or else he must do much worse, slight her self, and reputation too. 'Tis a Proverbial saying, *that Love is blind*, I am sure such a sort of Lover is; for he will not see the unjust desires he makes to her, but only

minds the unkind returns she makes to him, without ever considering that they spring from her Love to Vertue, and a good Reputation, but vainly fancies 'tis her Love to some happy Lover, that's in her favour, and keeps him out, which disquiets and torments his Amorous mind, with a fierce Jealousie, which *Solomon* calls *the Rage of Love*; and tho young Men are more naturally inflam'd with eager desires in the pursuit of beauty, than old Men are; for Age to Love, is like Water to Wine, the more quantity of Water, the less strength in the Wine; but tis most certain old Men are as able Courtiers, and Lovers of Wealth, as any young Men can possibly be; Riches being like the Sun, agreeable and comfortable to all, and indeed nothing is more common, than to see Covetousness to grow in most with their Age; and the reason of it in my Opinion is, that all other youthful sprightly delights but that of gaining Wealth, decreases as Age increases; but the pleasure of Mony, all Men can keep as the Heathen do their Gods they adore, under Lock and Key.

But yet this so adored beauty, Riches, carries its troubles, as well as delights, for there's great labour in procuring Wealth, trouble in defending and preserving it, and also great Cares in the well spending it whilst one lives, and well disposing of it when we die; and so if we look over, and search into most Worldly pleasures,

pleasures and vanities, we shall find them as contrary to the true repose of this life, as they are to the felicities of the next.

Certainly there is some great Charm in this thing called Praise, that tickles the ear, inflames the heart, raises the spirits, enlivens the resolution, deludes the reason, flatters the hopes, and deceives the sight, by giving a false gloss, and making a counterfeited representation of things; for, the Bait of Praises, for which both Men and Women so strive, and eagerly pursue, is still painted and set out in the brightest and most oriental charming Colours that are imaginable, to allure our eyes, inflame our hearts, and enliven our ambition.

But the Hook that is hid in this Bait, that is, the great dangers, hardships, and thousands of vexatious disappointments, that one must necessarily meet, and run thorow, in the pursuit of this Idol folly, is so obscure & artificially drawn, as 'tis not commonly seen, but very ordinarily felt by many, in some to their loss of Life, and to others of their greatest satisfactions in it.

And now to put my last finishing Touch to this Picture of Praise, the Mistress and Darling of the whole World, methinks we ought not to wonder that this adored beauty, is so Coy in her Carriage, and so difficult to be gain'd; if we do but reflect, tho in a wholesail manner, the sad oversights, great mistakes, and blind pursuits of its followers; of whom I shall only



say in general, that some are so eager in gazing at it, others so over earnest in their seeking it, as really most oversee the right way to it, which is by true Piety, constant Charity, and a daily practice of Vertue and Godliness in all their actions: And no wonder that such as will not take these blessed Guides, should miserably miss their way to it, and be sadly defeated in their hopes of it.

And now having done with my Discourse of Praise, give me leave to change the Scene, and to pass by the uncertainty of your meeting it, tho to reflect on the certainty of deaths meeting you, and the terrors that then appear at the end of a vain wicked life; and to beg the vain young Ladies Company for a little time, that I might lead their thoughts into the sad and dismal Regions of Mortality, that they may now consider it, to prevent it hereafter from surprizing them, and that they may carry their thoughts to the Grave, before their friends carry their Bodies.

The Seasons of our Lives resemble exactly those of the Year, the Summer of our Life swallows up the Spring of our Youth, and the Autumn of our Age makes us to decline, as the Sun does daily of its vigorous heat and influence, till all the fair days, and various productions of natures beauty at last yeild to old Age Winter, as their Grave; for as the Apostle says, *'Tis appointed for every Man once to die,*  
and

and one day is still the death of the other; and tho many things may keep back the thoughts of deaths coming, yet nothing can retard the time of his approach.

And now I must humbly beg our vain modish Ladies pardon, if I here a little mind them of the sad concluding Scene of their Life; and in how miserable a condition some of them must necessarily be in when they come to die, and have wasted all their Life, in Vanity and Sin, little considering Reputation, and less fearing Scandal; little valuing Conscience, and less esteeming Eternity.

It has often come into my mind, that the sad end of such vain Womens Lives, is like the last Scene of their Loves, to their Gallants, which is just as an Ague turned upside down, the cold fit after the hot; for when the fiery passions of youthful Love are changed through their Inconstancy, or worn out by Age, or wasted by Sicknefs; for you know that Loves vanity, is but of a short date, it either vanishes in the act, and is nipped in its gay and vigorous blossom, like the tender-leav'd Plants, by a cold Northern-wind; or else grows wrinkled and impotent, like crooked and deform'd shrubs, for want of sap and moisture, and so grows loathsom and deformed as the grim Jaws of Death, that will too at last come with a dreadful stroak to level all our fair Cedars to the ground, and make your

beauty (Ladies) to consume away like a Moth fretting a Garment ; every Woman is therefore but vanity : and when you are thus brought to your Death-beds of pain and languishing ; O then Consider what a sad condition you must needs be in, when you will find all your fond beauty and vanity going off the Stage, when your life is just expiring, when the scorching thoughts of your past vain life come to inflame your mind more fiercely, than the burning Feaver can your body, and that the remembrance of your past extravagant pride and vanity will torment your troubled Conscience more, than ever before they pleased your sensual appetite, and that the shivering fit of guilt, not only seizes your heart, but pierceth your very soul, with sad and sober thoughts of your past sins, and the strict account that you must soon give of them, and of the terrible punishments that you must justly suffer for them ; when perhaps you cannot comfort your afflicted Conscience with the assurance of having so much as performed in your whole life one pious act, or charitable deed, when you had both time and means to have performed thousands ; and so as too many of you do, lose the blessings of the other World, meerly for slighting Gods mercies in this.

And farther 'twill be well worth the consideration of our vain Ladies, that when they lie a dying,

dying, the sins of their life will flie about their troubled minds, as naturally as sparks do about fire, and will lighten them to a clear sight of their pride and vanity; and their greatest trouble when they are leaving this World, is what will become of them when they are out of it; and truly it will not be without great cause, since their Consciences will then assure them, that their Bodily pain in this Life, will be but the Prologue or first step to their Souls eternal misery in the next.

Whereas a pious young Lady who with holy *David*, makes a covenant with her Eyes that they should not behold vanity, but observe Gods commandments as her chief study and delight; by truly living in his fear, she will certainly die in his favour, and will find at her death, that her good Conscience will be her real friend, and true comforter, and furnish her with a chearful readiness to submit her will to Gods, which will never fail to protect her against all those spiritual conflicts and temptations of Conscience, which still rack and torture ill Womens minds when they come to die; for tho God casts her on her Bed of sickness and pain, yet he will be sure to lift her up with the arms of mercy; and bless her with the assurance of a perfect state of Bliss, after her painful life is ended; for tho Death be the wages of Sin, yet a Pious death, is but the passage to a Heavenly Life. And a Religious vertuous  
Woman



Woman at her death will as certainly enter into a state of eternal Felicity, as an impious vain and wicked one will into that of deserved misery.

*Solomon* says, *That the fear of God is not only the beginning of wisdom but the end of it*; for it teacheth you to regulate your desires, and purifie your actions, as it will make you live well, in order to die so. So that indeed our good actions concur in their influence towards the happiness of our souls, as the Sun does in motion to the Dial; the Dial is not the true cause of the Sun's motion to it, yet by the Sun's shining on the Dial, you may truly Judge of the true motion of the Sun.

But leaving aside that dispute whether good works can only merit Heaven, or not (as the *Papists* teach,) I am sure living a pious vertuous life in the faith of the holy Jesus, will certainly carry you there; this all Ladies know, but few will practise, or so much as think of, I mean as you ought; for you usually defer all thoughts of the other World, till you are just parting out of this, when alas the time present is only yours; for that past is no more, and that to come is not yet, so that you do but live between them both; the present being the only time you can properly call yours, for God well knowing what great Prodigals you are of it, is so providently merciful, as to trust you only with a Minute at a Time;

Time; for as he gives you one, so he still takes away the other, as a Lesson of instruction, not to rely on any time but the present, and to perform all your Christian duties in it, as the only time appointed you by God for it. And Ladies if you will but employ this present time as you ought, you will certainly find time enough in it, to enjoy both the delights of this World, and to secure you the felicities of the next.

By this all our vain Ladies may easily know, and joyfully conclude, that there needs no great difficulty in obtaining Heaven, since it only requires, (as I have told you) a strict pious and vertuous life to compass it; which may easily be done, if you will but spend half so much time in serving your God, as you daily waste in looking on your Glass; in praying for your Soul, as in setting out your Face, which must certainly, nay perhaps suddenly, stink, rot, and be eaten up by nasty Worms. And really supposing there was no such place of Bliss, as Heaven for the Godly, nor yet of Torment, as Hell for the wicked; yet a pious vertuous life, cannot but be more healthful for the body, and more satisfactory to the mind, than excess, pride and vanity, can be to either.

Next 'tis worth your consideration to think, how little true content most of you can find in this World, and how little time 'tis you can enjoy that little you do desire; for such  
 confide-

considerations cannot but render you somewhat sensible, of your great and extravagant folly in all your ludicrous sports and pastimes, unskilfully gaming away your souls; so as in a manner to set Eternity against a Moment. I mean, the Momentary pleasures of this life, which cannot last, before the joys of Heaven, which are everlasting; and sure there can be nothing more foolish than to rely on the duration of your abode on Earth, as any solid and lasting possession, there being nothing more frail and tottering than the Basis your life stands on; for tho you are never so healthful, yet you cannot but find in your self, some marks and symptoms of Mortality, which may serve as Advertisements of the instability of this your earthly being, which is subject to a thousand Diseases, and a torrent of Accidents, especially in you fine young Ladies, whose bodies are so tenderly built, and nicely composed, as the leaving off a Hood, or wanting of a Skarf; the least crum of Bread, that sticks in your Throats, or the smallest stop in the course of your Blood, ( I had almost said or motion of your Tongues) puts the whole Oeconomy of your body in disorder, if not utter ruin, witness as an instance of this accidental mortality, Pope *Adrian*, who as story says, *was choaked with a Flie*; nay your very food, the support and maintainer of your life, ought to be, a *Memorandum* of your Mortality, since  
you

you cannot live without it; and if sleep be the Image of death, you are by the very necessities of your nature, to die every night, during the few days you live.

But whether you live long, or die early, you must certainly Die; and you are in this as well as in all things else, to submit your will to Gods, and to bend your greatest endeavors, and fix your strongest resolutions, in an intire obedience to it, which if you truly and heartily do, you must learn the great vertue, and Christian perfection of self-denial, and despise all those worldly flatteries and enjoyments; mortifie all your excess of vanity and extravagant pleasures, that you may become truly amiable pure and holy in the sight of God; when you live in compliance to his holy Laws, and submit in all things to his good will and pleasure, who is all love and beauty it self, in the highest measure and perfection; and therefore the least spot or impurity in your lives, is a direct violence and contradiction to the most excellent nature, and being of an infinitely pure and holy God.

And now before I quite finish this Discourse, let me beg one of you Ladies, to suppose yourself to be in the actual possession of all the worldly pleasures you can fancy, that you enjoy as great honours as your ambition can aspire unto, and as much Beauty, and Riches, as your vain and Covetous humor can thirst after,



ter, and as many rarities as your appetite can wish for, and that your Gallant was as kind, handfom and constant as you could wish: In a word, that you thought him as beautiful, as you think your self; pray do but now consider, what all these will amount to, at the hour of death, and in order to it, reflect a little seriously, what a weak Basis your life stands on; for according to the common Law of the Land, a Life is valued but at seven Years purchase, and many times by the course of Nature, a Life does not last half so long.

Next if you will but condescend so far to mortifie your self, as to go and visit one of these Lovers of vanity, and railliers of Religion, one of these coynesses of folly, and despisers of vertue, lying sick on her Death-bed, past all hopes of recovery; and do but observe how her Words and Looks are changed, and indeed the whole Scene of her Life, her Countenance being all shadow'd over with the pale and dismal Colours of Mortality, instead of her gay Vermillion paint; for all beauty and worldly delights vanish and leave you with your health, being like a Sun-Dial, only useful, whilst the Sun shines on it; then you shall find the but naming her rich Diamond Pendants, and fine Pearl Necklace, her Embroidered Gowns, and Costly Points, will prove troublesom to her, and the sight or smell of her late beloved Dainties will then loath her Stomach;

mach; nay a visit of her dear Gallant, whom she was so fond of, and delighted in, will be odious to her sight, as well as the thoughts of having too much lov'd him, will be grievous to her mind: Then her Bottles of White-washes, or Cosmeticks will be thrown out, and filled with showers of penitent Tears for having used them: Then her Boxes of Peeter, and Patches, and all her Ornamental knacks and dresses, she was wont every day to waste so much time about, and to take so great pastime in, to adorn and set out her beauty, will only serve to disquiet her thoughts, and the Praises of her beauty, will only serve to disquiet her thoughts; and the Praises of her beauty, will be but so many disturbances in her Sickness, and she will be then as much troubled to hear them, as she was formerly delighted to receive them, and proud in the vain thoughts of deserving them.

In short, on her Death bed, all her late dearly beloved Vanities, will at that time appear her most afflicting Enemies; and she will then loudly declare, that nothing but a religious Life, can produce a Comfortable death; and will then tell you, that if she were the sole Mistris of all the Riches of both the *Indies*; she would give it all for the blessing of a good Conscience, for that never leaves one, in Sick-ness, or in Adversity, but is still the best of Friends, in the worst of Times.

THE

THE TWELFTH  
DISCOURSE.

*Useful Advices in order to the vain modish  
Ladies well Regulating their Beauty and  
Lives.*

**I** Humbly beg the vain Ladies pardon for beginning this Discourse so uncivilly, as to tell them, 'tis the Opinion of most sober and observing Men, that many of you make but a self-deceiving Calculation in the account of your Christian duties, and holy performances; by fancying your selves well secured, and diligently active, in the exercise of Gods Commands; and in your obedience to him, if you do but rise early enough on Sunday to go to Church in the Morning, and can Dine so temperately as not to sleep at the Sermon in the Afternoon, and do say a kind of siz'd Prayer like a short Grace of a few customary words, rising and going to bed all the week after, which perhaps may be said more out of long habit, than true devotion.

How many Ladies are there, and those of a good and sober sort, (as Women go now adays) that fancy because they live Chast, read the  
Bible

Bible now and then, and miss going to Church but seldom, who are Charitable to the Poor, Loving to their Neighbours, true to their Friends, good will to all, and in love with none, (unless may be a little with themselves,) think they perform all Christian duties perfectly, and therefore deserve all Mens Praises truly; and indeed they would not think amiss, if they would be but near as just and exact to God in their daily account of their time to him, as they are in creating daily fresh pastimes and pleasures to themselves, and that they would measure out their time, according to Gospel Precepts, instead of imploying it in vain *London* follies and pastimes, which among the modish Ladies, are partly these:

So many hours for Dressing, so many hours for receiving and returning Visits, so many for the Play, and the Park, so many hours for Dining at this friends house, Supping with that, and playing late at Cards at t'others, or being at a publick Ball or Dancing at anothers, so many hours to sleep a Bed to satisfy Nature, so many more to lie a Bed, to continue their full Face, and good Looks; besides hours for going to Court, to see new fashions, and ransacking Shops to buy new-fashioned Silks and fineries, besides other times of vain idleness and prodigality of excess and folly; as such a great part of the Year for a pretended Disease, or rather diversion at the *Bath*, such a season for



an infirmity, or recreation at the Wells of *Tunbridge*, or *Epsom*; to raffle away it may be our time and money, to be profuse, and game at publick Lotteries, or to charm or decoy some rich Heir, or Gallant for next Winters service; and now *Ladies*, when all these mispent hours are abstracted out of the twenty four, besides other parts of your lives accounted; I am afraid you will find so great a consumption and ill management of your time, as you do often too sensibly of your Estates and Money, and so miserably condole those lost Minutes which you might have employed to better purposes, in being soberly modest and pious, to have performed the duties of Religion, which is the only true pleasure and pastime of the soul: And tho some of these divertisements I know are not barely in themselves sinful crimes, yet sure they are no better than venial sins, by their totally taking up, and so intirely devouring of young Womens whole time.

I. My first Advice therefore to the vain Ladies, is to alter the mispending of their time as now they do, to employ it as really as they ought to do; which is in preparing to die well, rather than striving to live high, or look fair, and not to fancy they spend their time well, among such as they but lose it with; for as *Seneca* says, *They are idle, who might be better employed*; so such Ladies live in some kind ill, that may live in many degrees better. There-

Therefore as prudent Men manage and regulate their Estates, by dividing it into several proportions ; so much for House-keeping, Servants wages, Apparel, private expences, and the like; and so suiting their Income, to answer their several Charges, according to their ability to perform, as their occasions require ; which necessary Measures, because many of the young Estant Men will not observe, they steer without a Compass, run they know not where, spend they know not what, and live they know not how, extravagantly, without ease or order.

Now Ladies to prevent such an extravagant manner of spending, or rather wasting of your time, I shall advise you in order to the well managing of it, not only to divide it into several hours, for that is already done to your hand, by many good Clocks and Watches; but you must subdivide the hours of the day, into so many portions set out for devotion, business, and pastime, according to your ability, and conveniency, always giving place to the duties of Religion, the first and principal part in all your designs, and actions ; still beginning the day with Prayer, and praises to your Creator, who made both it, and you, in order to your worshiping and serving him, and by so dividing the day into so many several parts, and Stages of hourly employments, the changeable variety that's in them, will afford you variety of pleasure, as well as business, to

entertain and direct you, and prevent you Ladies from complaining, as I have heard many of you, O what shall we do to pass away this afternoon, since you will see all the days business and diversions marked out before you; and really nothing more distracts and vitiates vain young Womens minds, than emptiness of business and employment, the want of which fills you up with the ill vapours of idleness, that old Mother of wickedness, whereas certain hourly employments, fill and replenish your fancy with such diversity of change, and business, as is able to suppress, and allay, all fumes of vain idle thoughts, from arising in your minds, and save you the expensive trouble, of imitating many of the fine gay modish Ladies, who by chargeable means and studied Arts, purchase ways vainly to pass away their time, which by the course of nature, without their help, and beyond their power, runs away but too fast of it self.

2. My next Advice to the vain Ladies, tho I am sure 'tis very good, yet I doubt 'twill be little lik'd, and less follow'd; which is to shun the infectious temptations of a vain *London* life, which often gets many young Ladies bad Reputations, but seldom good Husbands. *London* being become the very Center-point, and Rendezvous, whereall the vices and vanities of the Kingdom meet; yet these vices and vanities, are among many of the fine Ladies, so richly  
gilt,

gilt, finely painted, and splendidly set out, as they are so far from appearing deformed, as they seem beautiful and taking to most, I mean the inconsidering young Men of the Town.

Really the Air of *London* is so infected with Pride, Vanity, and Idleness, that 'tis hard for one of you young Ladies to appear in young Mens Company, but you must have your Ears furr'd with Oaths and Profaneness, or else your person Complemented with vain Romantick Courtship, which is not exactly applied and fitted for any one Woman, but for all handsom Women in general; like false flattering Looking Glasses, which Complements not only one, but every one that looks on them, not staying for a great beauty, but still flattering the first comer.

But Piety and Vertue is still like a pure wholesom Air, a comfort to all, and an Infection to none, and is so far from dislodging, or overcasting the lightsomness of any lawful pleasures, as it clears and dissipates any dark Clouds of fears that may hang over them; for 'tis most certain, Piety and Beauty, Recreation and Devotion, may live peaceably together, and yield a mutual aid and comfort to one another.

Indeed if you Ladies would but use to mix Piety with your pastimes, you would soon come to make a pastime of Piety; and then in-



stead of dividing the hours for vain *London* pleasures, you would make them so many *Memo-randums* of the efflux of time, to put you in mind of the duties of Mortality, and of the hourly advances you make towards it, which requires hourly preparations for it; for the same hours serve as well to tell you of your approaches to Death, as to divide your pleasures in Life, as the same Figures in your Watch serve to tell the hours of the night, as well as those of the day.

Then Ladies you will find that time laid out in Prayer and Devotion, is not spending, but gaining time; and if you will but seriously reflect, and heartily practise this great Truth; you will soon find, that Piety is as to advancing of worldly delights, and pastimes, but as Ballast to a Ship, which does not hinder, but only regulate its motion, not slackning but steadying its Sayling.

A fine Lady whose mind is only fraughted with the Airy Cargo of pride and vanity, can never steer steady in her heavenly Course; but is still tossed from one side of folly, to another extremity of vanity, for the want of the true blessed Ballast of godliness, which will Calm and dispossess your mind of all modish vanities, and irregularities, and will allay all kinds of immoderate heats, raised by the Feaverish distempers of Womanish Passions, and will fix your affection on what is immovable, and perpetual,

petual, and will soon cause you to abandon the vain empty undurable pastimes of *London*, for the true endless felicity of Heaven, *and this is a Heaven upon Earth, To love God, and keep his Commandments*; for then you will truly love Vertue, and constantly practise Piety, and only delight in the beauty of holiness; which as it transcends much, so it differs far from, all Earthly love, for that's seldom or never enjoyed with true quietness, long satisfaction, or just and equal returns; for the most passionate Love we can fancy, as a Mistress to her Gallant, or a Gallant to his Mistress, is commonly of so fickle, volatile, and inconstant a nature, as if a Woman thinks her Gallant loves any other Woman, she grows Jealous; and if he fancies his Mistress loves another Man, (as 'tis ten to one she does) he becomes inrag'd, for as *Solomon* says, *Prov. 6. 34. Jealousie is the rage of a Man*, here on Earth tho most are Lovers, yet many are false ones, but in Heaven all are Lovers, and are true ones; since in your Heavenly Love, your act of loving, is the certain fruition of your Love: a Woman by loving Vertue, it becomes hers, but by loving a Gallant you become his; for she that is under a Gallants command, cannot truly say she is under her own. In a word, all the Riches and Pleasures imaginable, that you abandon for the love of God, you enjoy them all, in loving God above them all.

And you may be certain Ladies, if you can but thus love God as you ought, you must despise the World as you should, and then you will take more true delight in the title of a good Christian, than you did ever before in the vain praise of a great beauty, and slight this, in comparison of that, for a handsom Woman like the Sun, is to be esteemed more for her Vertue, than Splendor. Beauty is but a fine outside Skin, but true Godliness is all glorious within, and will bestow on you more Celestial beauty in the other World, than all your false Glasses, and Gallants falser Tongues, can flatter you with in this.

3. My next advice to you vain Ladies is, when you are putting on your fine rich Gowns which so many of you adorn your selves with every day, with so great care, high excess, and vast expence, as well of time, as money, which makes many of you by being so over careful in setting out your body, to be over careless in looking after your Soul, in not allowing it perhaps so much as a clean shift of Repentance once a Sunday, I mean a penitent Sigh or Tear in a Week, to blow off, and wash away your Sins, and Vanities, which your own corrupt Natures, and idle Company breeds in you every day : Therefore when you are putting on your new rich Gowns, if you could but remember at the same time, to Lace about your hearts this *Memorandum* of the Prophet,  
*That*

*That Worms are breeding under your Covering;* doubtless such mortifying reflexions, would humble your pride, and abate your vanity; and not only hinder you from leading such vain Lives, but wearing such rich Clothes, which though they may exactly suit with the Rules of the Modists; yet I am sure 'tis quite contrary to the Precepts of the Apostle, *who orders Women not to adorn themselves with rich, but modest Apparel,* as if rich Apparel, was not modest, nor to use painful Dresses, which is an excess of folly of another kind, by squeezing your selves into a fine slender shape, by pinching in, and thereby tormenting of your bodies, by lasing your selves so streight to take Mens sight, as you can hardly take your own breath; and if this be not great pride, and high folly, I confess I know not what is.

4. My next advise to the vain Ladies, which (I am sure) is of great use, and high advantage, in order to their living vertuously, and dying religiously, is this: Not only to shun, but totally to banish that familiar companion of your Sex, Pride; I shall not strive here to dive far into the depth of this vast Ocean of iniquity; though all our actions run as naturally to it, as Rivers do to the Sea: Nor do I here pretend to make a subtile penetration, into any hard Conceptions of the sinful nature, and wicked consequences of this common, (I had almost said Womanish) Vice of  
Pride,



Pride, my design being not to enlarge on it, but only to present you with some plain useful advices, and directions how to destroy, or at least Countermine this raging Sin, which must be done by a common practice of humility; which if young Women would but consider truly, and follow carefully, it would soon persuade them, to lay aside their *Delilah* Creature of vanity, and to call in a more vertuous acquaintance of humility, and make her their bosom friend; for Pride is one of the seven Sins *Solomon* tells us God abominates, and *Scripture* assures you, *That God still rebuketh the Proud, and ever giveth grace to the humble.*

Pride is now turned into a Cancerous humor very apt to grow in all young handsom Womens breasts, and in most it swells and rangles, so as to become noysom, not only to humility, and piety, but indeed to very common Society; and 'tis easie to observe, that many handsom Women, whom Nature hath presented with a large proportion of beauty, which of it self had been able to render them agreeable, and taking to all persons; yet many of them do so fully and overcast the glory of it with Pride, and self conceitedness, as to give it a disagreeable Air, and relish to most of its admirers, by their too apparent proud affected estimation of it. And 'tis observable Ladies, that such of you as are always ready to place too high a value on your selves, are still apt to  
cast

cast too low an esteem on others, and so cause most to undervalue you, for your slighting them. Whereas the vertue of true humility, ascends by the means of descending, as Trees mount and flourish upward, by rooting and growing downward.

Pride is a distemper of the mind, which most young Ladies are naturally inclined to, and easily infected with ; for the least enflaming their beauty by Praises, presently turns to the filthy ulcer of pride, which is of such an extraordinary malignant nature, as low birth, little wit, no beauty, great want, nay very ugliness it self, is not a sufficient Cure and Antidote against it; *Solomon says, Want of Bread will not starve Pride*, and I am sure experience teacheth us, that want of beauty, will not starve some Womens proud fancies of being handsom, tho they have not the least feature of it; so over-apt are young Women to believe themselves so, that if Men will be so great lyars as to tell them they are beautiful, they will be so great Fools as to believe them, and rather credit other Mens words, than their own Eyes; sure Women so blinded, ought above all things to beg of our blessed Saviour, as the blind Man did in the Gospel, *Lord grant me my sight, that they might clearly come to see themselves, and their own folly and ugliness.*

Sure 'twould be impossible that handsom Women, could so delight in this Devilish sin of  
Pride,

Pride, if they would but remember, that humility is as well a certain improvement of beauty, as a constant inhabitant with virtue; for humility makes a little beauty appear great, but Pride makes a great beauty to appear little; the first being taking to all, the second odious to every one: The more beauty a pious young Lady has, the less pride she will shew, like a Pyramid, that still lessens as it rises, and as a *Philosopher* said, *He is a brave Man indeed, whose wealth, honour, and power, makes the least part of his greatness*; so that young Lady is a real perfect beauty indeed, that makes the handsomness of her face, the least pride or concern of her mind; so vast a difference there is between the virtue of the Soul, and the beauty of the Face; as *Seneca* well observes, *That Vertue is the only Immortal thing that belongs to Mortality*, and we may also well observe, that the beauty of the Face is the most fading thing that belongs to frailty. Methinks our proud Ladies ought to remember the humility of *David*, who though a great King, was yet so humble as to stile himself *a Worm and no Man*, but most of our celebrated beauties, are so far from the humble thoughts of esteeming themselves Worms and no Women, as they are so highly proud, and ridiculously foolish, that like the *Babel* projectors, they hope to Toure themselves as high as the Heavens; for some of them fancy themselves

selves to be Stars of the first Magnitude, a kind of Goddesses raised up to the Skie; but if you ask me how, I can but tell you, they were only raised there by the lofty Muse of their own vain imagination; and therefore such proud puffed up beauties, are really but like your School-boys Paper-Kytes, which are only mounted into the Skie, by the Wind, and fall to the ground again as soon as it ceases to blow them up.

Really if I durst venture to give my free vote as to my opinion of beauty, I should tell the Ladies that I think 'tis a measuring cast, and a disputable Question, which is most unsolid and unlasting, either the matter of this fine composition called beauty, which is in the handsomest Woman but like the fading colour of a *Tulip*, only pleasant to the Eye; for a little time, and there's all; or the maker of it, which is no other than the various opinion of every gazers inclination, beauty having almost as many Fathers, as there are Men Judges of it.

Surely these vain proud Creatures have read the Story of *Theodosius*, a *Spanish* Prince, who was raised to be Emperor for his good Face; and therefore think they may well hope to be raised not only to an Empire over Men for their great beauty, but that they do well deserve a great transcendency over the ordinary rate of Women-kind, but indeed such high beauties are at very best, but like *Metēors*, which are  
exhaled



exhaled but a little above the Earth, and are yet a great deal below the Heavens.

But suppose I should be so highly Complementary as to allow these great beauties, the full Swing, and extravagant range of their own vain proud and lofty fancies; that they are as far above the ordinary sort of Women, as the Skie is above the Earth, and that their motions were very generous and sublime, imitating the Sea, which impatient to be confined by the bounds which God has given, is still swelling and striving to mount and raise it self above the surface of the Earth; yet I would gladly learn, because I can no way fancy how they will pretend to be begot there, except it be by the Man in the Moon; and indeed that may possibly be some reason, why our great beauties are generally so fickle and inconstant in their Love, as receiving their great mutability from the influence of the Moon, as their immediate Parent.

5. Therefore my next Advice to the vain Ladies, is still to remember that though your beauties may be extraordinary, yet your lives can never be Immortal on Earth; and that your great beauty, and proud thoughts, must both perish with you; for it may be truly said of great beauties, what the *Psalmist* said of great Princes, *Though you are stiled Gods, yet you must die like Men*; so though you may be called Goddesses, yet you must die like Women; and though

though your beauty could make as great a Conquest of hearts, as ever *Alexander* did of Kingdoms, who had no more to subdue; yet as death has certainly put a period, to his success and life; so he will certainly do the like, to your beauty and days.

For indeed the greatest beauty, is but like the finest Glass, the more clear, the more frail, and easily broken; for alas, take beauty in its very highest Altitude, and greatest vigour, 'tis a fabrick composed, and made up of so many tender pieces of such brittle ware, and delicate Contexture, as the least spot or flaw, in any one part, spoils, or at least blemishes the lustre of the whole; and as the Poet says,

*One that is all over Heart,*

*Every place proves a Mortal part:*

Now Ladies if you resolve to be all over virtuous, and discreet in Reputation, so as to live Shot-free, from all the wounding Darts of censure, you must arm your selves with a clear and innocent complexion of virtue; to procure which, you must not only abstain from evil, but the very appearance of it, not only from doing bad Actions, and keeping ill Company, but even the hearing, much less receiving vain praises; and as you ought to shew a general civility to all, so you ought not to give a particular freedom to any.

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In a word, you must manage all your actions with a strict prudence, a perfect modesty, a real humility, a vertuous behaviour, and a constant fear of God in all you say and do, and these will gain you praises, and make you well deserve to be admired; for *Solomon* says, *Prov.* 31. 30. *'Tis the Woman that feareth God shall be praised,* and by such a blessed and holy kind of life, you will secure your self against all the Censorious talk of envious bablers, against the venom of those lying malicious Tongues, who are not fit to be believed, nor worthy to be feared.

Indeed Ladies, the best way to make your earthly beauty, continue good and lasting, is to be humble in your own thoughts, and not to pride, or value your selves more than you ought; since 'tis so vain, and uncertain in its most lovely colours and complexion; for this will give Men a just admiration of your prudence and modesty, and preserve the vertue of it Immortal, beyond the duration of this fair and naked substance, which some sudden accident or disease can soon blast and rob of all its blooming and youthful vigour, strip it of all its gay attirement, and you of that vain delight in your own self-admiration; so then beauty is only less commendable in her, who makes it her only pride and concern to set it off; and such a Lady, thus trigg'd up, and furnished out, by great art and invention, by glittering apparel  
and

and proud ostentation, is but like a fire of Straw, it may blaze much, but it cannot last long, and whilst it lights others, it consumes it self. But a handsom Lady that's free from affectation and pride, and is blessed with great Piety, and true Humility, is like the Heavenly fire in *Moses* Bush, which burnt and lighted others, and yet never consum'd it self.

A handsom woman that is very proud, does but enjoy her beauty, as the Miser does his Wealth, who does not so much possess it, as it possesses him; and therefore your truly pious Ladies, do but use their worldly beauty, as the *Apostle* says *we are to use this World, that is, as if we used it not*, by a godly habit of mind, consuming all the usual vanity affected by others in the pious reflection, that there's no true vertue, or durable satisfaction in it.

We read in *Genesis* that good old *Abraham*, made no other use of all his wealth, than to purchase him a Grave; O why should not all proud Women imitate him, and though they be never so rich in beauty, employ it all in Purchasing a Grave of Humility, to bury the dust of their Pride in; and by so doing, they will certainly find a Resurrection of true Glory out of it, which will raise to them Garlands of perpetual Praises, of so Heavenly a nature, and vast an extent, as they will as much excel all the false vain glittering splendor of this World, as the noon day brightness, of a Summers Sun,



does the small glimmering light of a little Glow-worm, which cannot be seen, but by the help of darkness.

6. I shall next advise the vain Ladies, to resolve to new mould their Lives in this Spiritual frame of Reformation, and to square out all their actions by the Golden Rules of Piety and Vertue. I heard of a Gentleman that being dangerously ill of a Dropsie, went to a famous Physician for his Advice, who bid him abstain from all Drink for a Twelve Month, and it would Cure him: I am confident the like kind of Remedy would cure the fine Ladies, let them but abstain from all vain thoughts on themselves, and not hearken to the vain flatteries, and praises of others but for one Year, and 'twill certainly cure them of that Devilish distemper of Pride; for by one Twelve Months banishing it, and conversing only with vertue and humility, which are inseparable friends, they will certainly make them so religiously prudent, and happily vertuous, as to hate and shun all proud desires, and flatterers Praises, and cause them to love only those that Court them in the holy Language of Truth, to the Love of Godliness; which is the very best way, they can express their Love to you, or you your Love to your selves; and truly Ladies I cannot see the least reason, why you should be against this holy change, since it will not be a parting with, nor so much as a  
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Retrenching of your love delights, but rather be a better means, to enlarge and improve them, by placing and fixing your mind, on a much more noble object, and a far finer entertainment, by transplanting your affections, into a far richer soil, from Earth to Heaven; from the fading vanities of this World, to the never decaying felicities of the next; and when once a young Ladies Inclinations are firmly rooted in a real desire and hearty endeavour for this blessed Change, she will soon find that her Love will become so piously purified, that instead of her fixing it on mortal Man, she will only dedicate it to the service of the ever living God, whose service is still true happiness, and perfect freedom.

Then such a Lady will be happy, above the low Region of all worldly flatterers and the more vain concerns of a fading beauty, she'll not value the rallying scoffs and contempts of those who deride her humble and strict deportment, now so much out of fashion among the vain Ladies of our times; for such a reformed Lady, whose mind is truly sanctified, will extract uses of vertue, out of such extravagant Womens vanities, like the Bee, that sucks Hony out of all sorts of venomous Herbs, and like Fire, that turns all things within its compass to its self; and such a Ladies holy course of Life, will be steady and certain in its progress like the Sun in his daily motion,

nothing of Storms or changable weather, can ever hasten, or retard its regular course; for a Lady that's in the holy state of true Mortification, her constant Piety will so purifie and draw off her inclinations from all vain pastimes and modish vanities, and from those foul dregs of impurity, that are the usual attendants of a vain idle *London* Life, that by this Transfiguration of Mind, and pious habit of Life; her Conversation will be as the *Apostle* says, *fixed up in Heaven*, and we all know that the upper Region of the Air it self, will admit of no Storms or Thunder, for they are all formed below it.

And farther that Lady who is so blessed as to have her heart touch'd with this Magnetic vertue of true godliness, her thoughts will be elevated to such a heavenly pitch of spiritual vertue and religion, as she will despise all the young Gallants fine words, deep sighs, and languishing looks, with all their high Praises, and showers of Complements, which will work no more on her sanctified Mind, than showers of Hail on the tops of well covered Houses, which fall off, as soon as it falls on, without ever touching any of the inward part.

And whereas our vain Ladies receive the extravagant encomiums and flatteries, I might have almost said Adorations, of their vain Gallants as the Lawful Issue of their own applauded

ded Merit; a truly pious Lady, will only hearken to all the Airy Praises young Men ascribe to her beauty, to be but the Bastard brood, of their own abundant sin, and folly, and she will make such pious reflections on such young Mens overmuch praises, grounded on a sense of her own unworthiness of them, as she will not only despise their extravagant speeches, but themselves for speaking of them; which doubtless cannot but be very acceptable to God the searcher of all hearts, *who still giveth grace to the humble.*

Therefore Ladies, if you really desire true piety and humility, I must advise you again, and again, never to hearken with delight, or hear with belief, or indeed suffer with patience, but shun with diligence, young Mens airy praises and Complements, nor yet countenance their flatteries; for multitude of Praises cannot but perplex young Ladies Minds, as many Lights still confound the Sight; and therefore when you hear young Men give their Tongues such loose liberties, and over large ranges, in magnifying your beauty, remember such high Complemental expressions are to be trusted no more, than the *Christian* Flag of a *Turkish* Pyrat, which he only hangs out, that you might esteem him your friend, that thereby he may make you become his Slave.

Therefore Ladies keep still about you this preservative of your vertue, that you look up-  
on



on all the vain Gallants, that Court you with high Complements, and great praises, to be but so many *Judas's* that come to betray you with a kiss, and do not believe their Oaths, either on the account of what they swear, as to your great beauty, or their own true Love; for really flattery and vain praises, are now grown such common Arts, among fond Lovers, as well as great States-men, and Complementary Courtiers, as we often meet the truth of their meaning, in the contradiction of their words.

7. My last concluding advise to the vain modish Ladies is, when one of you is curiously beholding and admiring your fine Face in your Glass, and find that the great beauty of it, raises proud thoughts in your heart, (which is almost as common among handsom Ladies, as 'tis for them to look in their Glass, which nothing can be more common) humble your pride with these mortifying reflections, that this very fine Face of yours, that you like so much, love so well, and are so taken with, and fond of, must unavoidably in a little time become loathsom, rottenness, stink, and corruption, turn odious either to be seen or smelt, which is as very certain, as mortality it self; and death you know is not only sure to meet you, but you are exposed by a thousand accidents to meet it, whilst you are travelling in this Earthly Pilgrimage; for the spritely gaiety of  
your

your blossom youth, can only let you know how long you may possibly live, but can give no advance security how long you certainly will; therefore young Ladies as well as old Men ought still to march under the safe Conduct of a vertuous Life, and not to trust to the temptation of a long Life, but to rely only on the blessed security of a good one.

I shall conclude this Discourse and Book with the good saying of an excellent religious person, *That the vainest beauty on Earth, cannot justly deny this great Truth, that beauty is not absolutely necessary to the good of this Life, but that Piety is essentially necessary both to the good of this Life, and the next too, since one may live well, without beauty, but one can neither live or die well without Piety.*

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F I N I S.